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2 September 1983

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ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

ARMENIAN 'TERRORISTS' THREATEN TO USE DIOXIN--A previously unknown group--the Defense Command for Western Civilization--declared in a letter on Monday [1 August] that they support the Armenian revolutionary movement and threatened to use the poison dioxin, reports TIDNINGARNAS TELEGRAMBYRA. According to the communique, which was sent to the AFP office in Lisbon, the group claims to be in possession of 250 grams of dioxin. In the letter, the group states that it has made a pact with the Armenian organization which undertook responsibility for the attack last week on the Turkish Embassy in Lisbon. [Excerpt] [Stockholm SVENSKA DABGLADET in Swedish 2 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 3650/264

OPPOSITION PARTY ASSESSES GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 11 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Article by Mustafa Kamil Murad: "Balance Sheet for the Government"]

[Text] It was almost 2 years ago that Dr Fu'ad Muhi al-Din assumed the responsibility of the prime minister's office as deputy prime minister and then as first deputy prime minister. This occurred in front of the People's Assembly and the president in the administrations of al-Sadat and Mubarak. Almost 1 year after Dr Fu'ad Muhi al-Din's cabinet took office the Liberal Party finds that national participation in political action--offering criticism, guidance and political solutions to the problems of the masses inside the country and abroad--requires that opposition parties assess the government's actions fairly and unequivocally to point out the pros and cons of the government's various policies. This would fulfill primarily the interests of the homeland and of citizens. Second, it would serve the interests of government, which would thus find out what the other opinion or the other point of view is. The government would assess that other opinion and comment on it; political action would thus be carried out, and the process would become clear to the public, who constitute the essential factor in all this. The public is the essential factor in all policies and opinions: those that are applied by the government or those that are declared by the opposition.

It is from this democratic premise that the Liberal Party is offering its brief assessment of the government's performance in the areas of production, services and foreign policy.

First, Foreign Policy:

There is no doubt that the government has realized unequivocal and tangible success in foreign policy for the following reasons:

A. The government succeeded in strengthening economic and political relations with the United States, western Europe and Japan. The volume of aid, loans and terms that Egypt obtained from the western bloc grew. Western bloc countries, especially the United States, are playing what is to a large degree a positive role in the [effort to find solutions to] Palestinian and Lebanese problems.

B. The government succeeded in restoring trade relations with the Soviet Union and with the countries of eastern Europe. This benefited the Egyptian economy.

The Liberal Party thinks that it is necessary to upgrade Egypt's diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union to the ambassador level so that relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union can be restored to their normal condition.

C. The government succeeded in strengthening all areas of its relations with China.

D. Egypt resolved its differences with a number of countries in the Arab world like Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Last but not least, Egypt concluded an economic integration agreement with Sudan.

E. The government succeeded in promoting Egypt's role in the areas of non-alignment and African relations. Egypt began playing a positive and an effective role in those areas. President Husni Mubarak's successful visits to these countries helped foster the success of that role.

Second, Domestic Policy:

1. Defense: The government's success in this area was outstanding and tangible. It was able to obtain easy terms on large amounts of military aid from the United States to rearm the Egyptian army with the most modern weapons. It also succeeded in diversifying the sources of weapons. Training and exercises for the armed forces are now clearly set forth to the public in an unprecedented manner. The government has also succeeded in using a commendable innovative approach to solve the problem of draft evaders abroad. In addition, this is the first time for the armed forces to play a positive role in civilian areas [of life], such as food security and communications.

2. The Judiciary: The government has not succeeded [in its efforts] to develop the judiciary into an independent authority as stipulated by the constitution. In fact, the subordination of the judiciary authority to the executive authority still puzzles citizens. This is due to the fact that the president, who is also the chief of the executive authority, presides over the Supreme Council of the Judiciary. A minister in the executive authority, the minister of justice, acts as the president's deputy [in this regard]. Also the government still looks upon judges as civilian employees of the state; they are thus subject to the Civil Service Code. This [situation] can be remedied by amending the constitution and the law that regulates the judiciary organizations. The minister of justice is to become a minister of state for judiciary affairs, and the budget of the judiciary authority is to be independent of the government's budget. The budget of the judiciary is to be approved by the People's Assembly as a single item in the national budget, and it would be up to the Supreme Council of the Judiciary to determine the line items of that budget. All court fees are to be collected for the judiciary and considered part of the budget of the judiciary authority, which is to be headed by a judge elected by the Supreme Council of the Judiciary. These court fees are not to be included as revenues for the Ministry of the Treasury. Judges must also receive a monetary allowance exempt from all kinds of taxes for attending court sessions. In this matter they are to be treated like members of the People's Assembly. The administrative system in the judiciary authority has to be developed to ensure the prompt execution of court decisions and also to ensure the prompt settlement of cases that are before the courts.

3. Internal Security: Internal security has undoubtedly been stabilized, now that

police forces, central security forces and investigative agencies have grown and are competently carrying out their duties.

4. Martial Law: The government has so far failed to repeal martial law so that domestic conditions in Egypt could be restored to a state of normalcy. The government has not repealed martial law despite its repeated announcements that it did not have to use it so far. Why then is martial law being kept on the books when keeping it gives citizens the impression that conditions in Egypt are not yet back to normal? Why is martial law being kept on the books when the impression it gives citizens is not true?

5. Regarding the system of elections and the laws [regulating] citizens' political rights, the government failed to amend the elections law so that people can vote on the basis of their identity cards. [In accordance with the amended law] voters would re-register in accordance with civilian records in administrative districts and subdivisions. These records would replace existing lists which do not show the real number and correct names of voters. That fact rocks the basic foundation of democracy: [the existing lists show that] the number of citizens who are entitled to vote is not more than 12 million citizens; the correct number should be 24 million. Also the government has made no decision on the memorandum submitted by opposition parties to the president in December 1982 to correct conditions pertaining to elections in Egypt. The most important points made in this memorandum include one about Egypt having a neutral government headed by the president of the Court of Cassation who would be at the same time the minister of the interior. This government would conduct elections and ensure their freedom from bias. In addition, the memorandum requested that the existing system of elections by absolute majority be changed. This system was rejected by the opposition parties and by the people because it leads to a single party system which Egypt turned away from in 1975 when platforms and then political parties were established. It had become evident then that a single party system had numerous disadvantages which almost brought the country to the brink of certain disaster in 1967. The country is still suffering from the ill effects of that system. And yet, the government increased its resistance to the will of the people by announcing that it was looking into the matter of having voters vote for party tickets in elections for the People's Assembly, for the Consultative Council and for the local councils as well. The government has not conducted any dialogue with opposition parties on this matter.

6. The government is still insisting on a dual judicial system in Egypt by retaining the system of a socialist public prosecutor and that of ethics courts, which actually replaced the Central Committee. The government is still retaining the Ethics Committee that was part of the structure of the single party Arab Socialist Union, which was abolished 8 years ago in 1975. The Liberal Party is concerned about this situation and fears the approximation that is beginning to appear between the judiciary authority, the socialist prosecutor and the ethics courts.

7. The government will not take any legislative action to repeal all the emergency laws that were hastily issued towards the end of al-Sadat's administration despite the fact that the public law (the penal code) provides full protection for society and achieves national unity and social peace.

8. The government has made television totally inaccessible to opposition parties who cannot have a dialogue on television with the ruling party about foreign policy problems and domestic policy problems to let people know what the different points of view on their urgent problems are and to let them become more responsive than they are now. Also national newspapers are not providing sufficient space for the opinions of opposition parties. Air time on radio for opposition viewpoints is very limited, and all this is inconsistent with the law that regulates political parties and the Radio and Television Association Act.

9. Industry: The government has failed to realize measurable success in strengthening public sector plants and developing them to increase the quantity of production and improve quality. The budgets of public industrial companies--and there are over 100 companies--show that losses exceeded 40 million pounds. These companies should have realized profits of no less than 400 million pounds on a capital investment of over 4 billion pounds. That policy of "social prices" which is imposed by the government on public sector industrial companies is still the principal reason for such losses. This price is less than the cost price and does not change when production costs increase due to wage increases and increases in the prices of machines and raw materials.

It is the opinion of AL-AHRAR that this situation can be remedied by determining a profit ratio for these companies between 10 and 15 percent. Public sector companies can then make a profit and build up reserves. This would enable them to change their machinery and their tools and prepare themselves again to keep up with international levels of production. An example of this is evident in the fact that 1 meter of flannel costs about 40 piasters but is sold for 20 piasters. This is a very serious matter that affects the morale of workers in public sector industry. It also causes them to be deprived of the profits, social services and housing they are entitled to.

10. Agriculture: The government is still not clear about the pricing policy of agricultural crops. It is still imposing low prices for basic crops like cotton and wheat and monopolizing the process of marketing these crops. This is frustrating to farmers and may influence productivity. The government is still pursuing a policy of subsidizing fertilizers, pesticides and some agricultural tools like tractors and irrigation machines.

It is the opinion of AL-AHRAR that this is an erroneous policy and that correcting it requires the repeal of all agricultural subsidies. Agricultural crops are to be priced every year in a manner that is consistent with increases in agricultural production costs. Farmers can thus realize lucrative and balanced returns by rotating the cultivation of field crops such as cotton, wheat, corn, beans, etc. In other words, farmers are to pay real prices to purchase pesticides and fertilizers, and they are also to sell their crops at real prices. Suffice it to say that the price of hay is now twice the price of wheat and that the price of cotton used for upholstery has reached 80 pounds per qintar. At the same time the local price of prime quality cotton for export does not exceed 55 pounds per qintar!

The cooperative [movement] in agriculture is still confined to services only, that is, marketing. It does not include agricultural production itself, which is the essential factor here. It is the opinion of AL-AHRAR that the cooperative

movement include both services and production simultaneously. AL-AHRAR thinks that cooperative societies should no longer operate under the trusteeship of the government and the Credit Bank. The government succeeded in developing the cultivation of some kinds of vegetables and fruits like strawberries and tomatoes. If this policy continues to be successful, it may bring about a considerable increase in agricultural exports. And this could save us a considerable amount of funds which the government spends on food imports, most importantly wheat, flour and corn. To tell the truth, the government succeeded in increasing the yield per feddan in some principal agricultural crops, such as cotton and corn, by providing agricultural guidance and providing high-yield seeds.

These are the Liberal Party's general observations assessing the government's performance in the past 3 years. We will resume our assessment of the government's performance in the areas of the economy, investment, finance, food supply, communications, etc. so that the party's opinion and its assessment of the government's accomplishments and performance would be evident to the public and to the government itself. May God grant us success.

8592

CSO: 4504/493

ROLE OF FOREIGN CONSULTING FIRMS SCORED

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jun 83 p 10

[Article by 'Abd-al-Qadir Shuhayb: "Foreigners Are Invading Egyptian Projects; Foreign Consulting Firms Undertake Studies on 90 Percent of Major Projects and Insist That These Projects Be Entrusted to Foreign Firms for Implementation; Open-Door Policy and Conditions Set by Foreign Aid Are Cause of Foreign Invasion; Cost of Study Conducted by Foreign Experts Is Sixfold Cost of Same Study if Conducted by Egyptians"]

[Text] During the 1970's, greater help was sought from foreigners, especially, and by considerable proportions, in studying Egypt's economic problems and in seeking solutions for them. Resorting to foreign experts has now become the rule in Egypt and seeking Egyptian experts has become the exception even though Egypt abounds with varied capabilities in various fields and exports these capabilities to numerous countries, including the countries from which Egypt imports foreign experts.

The process of seeking the help of foreign experts began at an individual level and within narrow limits in certain fields. Then the matter developed gradually, Egypt's doors were opened in all fields and Egypt has become inundated with foreign consulting firms, which are constantly awarded bids to study Egypt's problems.

Dimensions of Foreign Invasion

The activities of the foreign expertise firms have extended to almost all Egyptian projects under circumstances in which consulting work in Egypt has become a monopoly in the hands of foreigners and the reports of these firms have become the bases for Egyptian development projects.

During the past year alone, these firms prepared studies on more than 90 percent of the major projects being implemented in Egypt--projects with investment costs of nearly 1 billion pounds. These firms also prepared the economic feasibility studies and technical studies for these projects.

These projects include the second Aswan Dam power plant, whose study was prepared by the Swedish (Sobco) consulting firm; the Shubra al-Khaymah electricity plant, whose study was prepared by the U.S. Bechtel consulting

firm; the 'Ayn Shams Hospital project, whose study was conducted by the French Sidem consulting firm; the Nova Park Hotel project, whose study was conducted by the Swiss (Zayco) consulting firm; the Arab International Bank building project, whose study was conducted by the U.S. (Sum) consulting firm; the al-Dakhilah Iron Plant project, whose study was conducted by the Japanese (Nippon Steel) consulting firm; the Portland Cement Plant project, whose study was conducted by the Swiss Esee consulting firm; and the Ra's Shuqayr gas collection plant, whose study was conducted by the Korean (Walim) consulting firm, in addition to the oil tower project and the Bank of Egypt project, whose studies are being conducted by a U.S. consulting firm. Of this list, which includes 11 major projects, the only project undertaken by an Egyptian consulting firm is that for the metal industries pier in al-Dakhilah Port.

Numerous Examples

These foreign consulting firms in turn assign blueprinting and supervision over implementation to other foreign firms which, in turn, entrust the work to foreign contracting firms and exclude the national firms from participating in most of these bids.

The consulting firm that conducted the economic feasibility and technical studies for the Shubra al-Khaymah electricity plant project insisted on entrusting implementation to a Spanish firm, even though the cost was 66 percent higher, and excluded all major Egyptian companies from this bid, including the Egyptian Reinforced Concrete Company and the Husayn 'Allam Company, which had built the north and south Cairo electricity plants and the High Dam electricity plant.

The Swiss consulting firm that prepared the economic feasibility and technical studies for the Hulwan Cement Plant insisted that implementation of the project be assigned to a Swiss contractor even though the costs were 15 million pounds higher.

The Japanese consulting firm that conducted the technical studies for the sponge iron complex insisted on excluding all Egyptian firms from undertaking any of the project's civilian work, keeping in mind that the reinforced concrete needed for this project does not exceed 200,000 cubic meters whereas the reinforced concrete required for the iron and steel complex amounted to five times this amount, i.e., nearly 1 million cubic meters, which the Egyptian company built on its own and completed on schedule.

The phenomenon of the foreign invasion of Egyptian construction work has reached major proportions in recent years. Whereas the volume of construction work carried out by foreign firms amounted to 850 million Egyptian pounds in 1978, this volume doubled in 3 years to reach 1.6 billion pounds in 1981 and is expected to grow to 2.5 billion pounds in 1985.

Other Examples

The issue has not been confined to the excessive use of foreigners to study and prepare Egyptian projects but has--and this is interesting--gone beyond

that to using them in conducting studies on the country's big and small problems, even though Egypt is distinguished by highly capable specialists in these areas.

Examples in this respect are numerous:

The use of American experts to study mango diseases even though mango is not cultivated in the United States but has been cultivated in Egypt for a long time.

The government's importation of a team of experts from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to organize traffic in Cairo even though there are traffic engineering professors and specialized traffic and computer professors in Egyptian universities.

The assignment of al-'Amiriyah textile and yarn project to a foreign consulting firm to which 4 million pounds were paid even though there is no field in which there are as many Egyptian experts as in the textile and yarn industry.

The situation has reached the point where the supervision of Cairo Airport sanitation has been assigned to a French company, as if we cannot do this work.

Reasons

All these examples show the extent of the infiltration of foreign experts into the country's utilities and of the country's inundation with foreign consulting firms.

This is due to the economic open-door policy, to the excessive borrowing from abroad and to the acceptance of loan conditions.

The open-door policy has opened Egypt to foreign investors and foreign capitalists. Foreign consulting firms have come in the bandwagon of these investors and capitalists to study the possibilities of investing their money in joint projects in Egypt and to evaluate for them the yield of their investments. Moreover, some foreign investors have found it profitable to invest their money in opening offices of foreign consulting firms in Egypt, especially since Egypt, like all developing countries, has not yet rid itself of the complex of the foreigner and of respect for foreigners.

As for the excessive borrowing from abroad, it has led to a multiplicity of loan contracts concluded by Egypt with foreign countries and organizations. Most or nearly all of these loans contain explicit conditions that require Egypt to employ foreign consulting firms to study the projects being financed by these loans and further require that the consulting firm employed be from the country advancing the loan.

It is only logical that Egypt's growing foreign loans would result in increased activity by foreign consulting firms and experts operating in the country.

Considering that the United States now represents the number one lender to Egypt, U.S. expertise firms have prepared the feasibility studies for most Egyptian projects.

Great Harm

This invasion by foreign expertise has caused great harm, most important of which is the rising cost of the studies prepared or conducted by these consulting firms because the firms' primary objective is to make maximum profit. Some estimates say that the costs of a study prepared by a firm of foreign experts is 4-6 times the costs of the (same study if conducted) by Egyptian expertise. Therefore, it is not surprising that the National Planning Council has conducted a study on family planning for the Ministry of Health at a cost of 25,000 pounds whereas the World Bank had offered to conduct this study at a cost of 150,000 pounds.

Moreover, these consulting firms currently monopolize the bids for the project on which they conduct the economic feasibility studies (and constantly assign these projects to other foreign firms to supervise their implementation and yet others to carry out the construction work). These latter companies run up costs, thus raising the final cost one more time, as has happened in the case of the Shubra al-Khaymah electricity project, for which a local bid of 33 million pounds was made. But the U.S. consulting firm recommended that the project be assigned to a Spanish firm at a cost of 50 million pounds, 17 million pounds more.

The final outcome of all this is the draining of a large part of the loans that Egypt obtains to finance these projects and the allocating of this part to experts from the country or organization from which Egypt has obtained the loan and to the foreign firms that carry out the construction work in the projects. Thus, the lending country or organization takes back with its left hand what it has offered with its right hand, not to mention the transformation of these loans from soft-term loans into exorbitantly costly loans.

Idling Egyptian Expertise

This is not all. These foreign firms play a premeditated role in idling Egyptian experts when they take over all or most of the technical and economic feasibility studies for Egyptian projects and when they assign these projects to other foreign firms for supervision and implementation. Thus, the pattern of delivering complete projects in which the Egyptian engineers play no part whatsoever has become common. This has led to the decline of the engineering profession in Egypt. This is confirmed by the

advertisements published by the open-door companies, which focus on the companies' need for "sales engineers," meaning engineers whose role is confined to marketing foreign goods instead of creating and innovating.

Moreover, the studies prepared by these consulting firms usually come with an option for a certain method of project implementation or certain production methods that can be carried out only by the organization or the country advancing the loan to Egypt to finance the project. The objective behind the option is to market unsalable goods or to provide job opportunities for experts seeking work.

The foreign expertise firms also play a role in directing Egypt's economic course, thus offering us certain projects and preventing us from implementing other projects. In addition, these firms play an extensive role in creating in Egypt an unhealthy climate that encourages the emergence of corruption. The firms assign the projects they study to other foreign firms which, in turn, assign them to Egyptian subcontractors. These foreign firms define the Egyptian contractors they want, as has happened in the case of the Shubra al-Khaymah electricity project which was assigned by the U.S. consulting firm to a Spanish firm for construction work and this Spanish firm insisted that the subcontractor be Arab contractors, with another German contractor.

All these drawbacks entrench Egyptian subservience to the outside world, and this is the gravest damage caused by these foreign firms to Egypt.

The danger that such firms represent will continue to exist as long as the policies permitting them to prosper continue to be enacted and in force and as long as excessive borrowing from abroad and acceptance of the harsh terms dictated by these loans continue to exist.

8494

CSO: 4504/478

COURT EXONERATES AL-SHA'B IN SLANDER CASE

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Jun 83 p 1

[Article by 'Isam Sulayman: "AL-SHA'B Board of Directors Chairman and Chief Editor Exonerated"]

[Text] The Heliopolis Misdemeanors Court convened last Sunday morning under the chairmanship of Ikram 'Abd-al-Fattah, court vice president, and issued its sentence in the case filed by Nabawi Isma'il, former minister of interior, against Eng Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of AL-SHA'B Board of Directors; Hamid Zaydan, the paper's chief editor; and Ibrahim Yunus, a reporter who wrote an article that the former minister of interior considered slanderous. The sentence has exonerated the defendants.

In his lawsuit, Nabawi Isma'il demanded that the chief editor and the author of the article, which Isma'il considered slanderous, be punished and that he be paid 100,000 pounds in damages.

The court issued its finding of not guilty and rejected the civil lawsuit, requiring Nabawi Isma'il to pay expenses and lawyers' fees.

The text of the decision says: The court has issued its finding in the presence of the litigants, exonerating Hamid Zaydan and Ibrahim Yunus, rejecting the civil lawsuit filed against them and against Eng Ibrahim Shukri and requiring Nabawi Isma'il, the plaintiff in the civil lawsuit, to pay expenses and lawyers' fees.

Fayiz Muhammad 'Ali, legal affairs secretary in the Socialist Labor Party, defended AL-SHA'B at the final session. Raja'i 'Atiyah and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad represented the defense.

The first session, held on 12 December 1982, was attended by a large body of lawyers, led by Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad, the party secretary general; Mahmud al-Mulayji, Executive Committee member; Salah al-Qafas, party secretary in al-Gharbiyah; and Lawyer Sabri Mubadda.

We will publish the details of the judgment in our next edition.

8494

CSO: 4504/475

INCREASED POTATO EXPORTS EXPECTED; STUDY OF NEW VARIETIES URGED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Jul 83 p 13

[Article by Husayn Shahbun: "Weather Conditions Prevailing in Europe This Winter and Spring Give Us Golden Opportunity To Increase Potato Exports and To Open New Markets for Egypt"]

[Text] Last week, the Higher Potato Committee, headed by Eng Faruq 'Afifi, technical adviser at the Ministry of Agriculture, decided to import 45,000 tons of potato seeds to be planted during the summer cycle, provided that this estimate is reexamined after computing the requests made by the departments of agriculture in the governorates producing the crop and by the agricultural authorities and companies. It was also decided to postpone determining the quantities of King Edward and (Cara) varieties of potato to be exported until the quantities in cold storage are checked. The Higher Committee's decision comes in preparation for the seed-importing season, which usually occurs in the month of September when the contracting committee goes to the European countries that produce the seeds to conclude the contracts.

This year, the seed season is different from previous years for several reasons:

From the beginning of March to the end of May this year, rainfall rates rose sharply, thus making it difficult for the countries producing the seeds to plant. Estimates indicate that the cultivated areas did not exceed 30-40 percent of normal acreage by the end of May. The remaining areas were cultivated during the first half of June, i.e., 4-6 weeks behind schedule. This is something that has not happened throughout this century.

Consequently, it is expected that the crop will drop by more than 20 percent due to the reduced acreage cultivated, the unavailability of seeds and the longer time taken to grow the seeds. However, nobody can make firm estimates on the crop situation this year.

A considerable drop in Europe's production of edible potatoes is expected and this will create an increased demand for potatoes in the world market, with potato prices rising as a result. It is also expected that seed prices will rise this year, with the prices of edible potatoes rising for

at least 2 years as a result of the rise in seed prices and the fluctuation in the crop. In 1976, the world market experienced similar conditions as a result of the (June?) drought and potato prices continued to rise in 1977 and 1978.

Golden Opportunity for Egyptian Potato Exports

According to the situation and the expectations arising from it, these circumstances collectively represent a golden opportunity to open new markets for Egyptian potatoes, especially in Germany and France, which import early potatoes as a luxury item. But the drop in production will generate a large demand for potatoes as an essential commodity, thus providing the opportunity for Egyptian potatoes to gain the confidence of the consumer in these countries and to continue to be imported in the future.

Without exaggeration, taking advantage of these circumstances in a practical and scientific manner can generate a leap in Egypt's potato exports in lieu of continued reliance on the British market, which absorbs nearly 80 percent of Egypt's potato exports of a certain conventional variety. Perhaps the first thing that should be brought under full and real control is to determine the varieties cultivated according to the producers' actual wishes and not according to the decision of some bureaucrats in the departments of agriculture or cooperatives, with their irksome status, or in the unions that appoint themselves official spokesmen of the producers, and only God knows how much these producers suffer from the unions.

It is necessary that the Ministry of Economy and the Export Development Center hold a conference for potato exporters to discuss the weather conditions that prevailed in Europe this winter and spring, their impact on potato seeds and consumption potatoes, the expected high demand for potatoes, the likely prices and the varieties in demand in the foreign markets that yield a good crop locally. The exporters should also be given full opportunity to conclude their contracts abroad before the start of the local cultivation season so that they can conclude contracts with the producing farmers to fulfill their foreign contracts.

We draw attention as of this moment to the importance of having the Ministry of Economy conduct studies on the world market, follow the movement of the European exchanges, conduct marketing studies and organize joint meetings between the Ministries of Agriculture, Supply and Economy to draw up a plan for importing the seed varieties that achieve the objectives and policies of the three ministries.

It has been reiterated this year that there is a tendency to purchase the seeds through bids and, to my knowledge, there has been a proposal to divide the varieties into groups and purchase the cheapest varieties, such as the King Edward and the Cara. This proposal is based on comparison by price alone, not taking other characteristics into consideration.

We believe that inviting bids is a good system that can enable Egypt to get its seed needs at world market prices. But it is important to stress characteristics and grade. There are varieties that are much more expensive than the traditional varieties but their productivity is twice the productivity of the traditional varieties. Consequently, they are considered less expensive when compared with the traditional varieties.

A final question: What is the Vegetable Research Institute's opinion on and evaluation of these varieties, keeping in mind that the institute has subjected these varieties to testing and evaluation in its experiments? Why shouldn't the outcome of this research have an input into selecting these varieties and making their productivity merits known to the farmer so that he can expand their production?

8494

CSO: 4504/475

FALLING ROCKS THREATEN WATERWAY, POWER STATION

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Jun 83 pp 1, 3

[Article: "Repairing the Cracks In the High Dam's Posterior Canal; Quick Action Is Necessary To Save the Nile]

[Text] Right after the holiday a project will get under way to repair the eastern slope of the High Dam's posterior canal so that 250,000 cubic meters of rock which are threatening to fall at any moment will be stopped. These rocks could block the transfer canal and prevent Nile water from passing from behind the body of the dam, thereby damaging the electric power plant. This is happening as a result of the acute cracking that has developed as a result of the detonations that were made in the construction of this canal.

Engineer Fu'ad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Zaki, the chairman of the High Dam authority, explained that the project will cost approximately 16 million pounds, and that the angle of the slope will range from 45 to 50 degrees.

Egyptian specialists are carrying out a project which will cost 16 million pounds to hold back a quarter of a million tons of rock which could fall at any moment, and which threaten to close the transfer canal and destroy the electric power station.

The granite eastern hill is cracking and splitting as a result of detonations in the construction of the dam and sudden seismic activity in Aswan.

Egyptian specialists are now preparing to carry out the most dangerous surgery on the Nile. The operation, which will cost 16 million pounds, will save the narrow part of the Nile from strangulation under the weight of a quarter of a million cubic meters of granite which threatens to collapse on the eastern hill over the transfer canal. The cracking and splitting problem, which was caused by the thousands of detonations used in digging this canal prior to 1964, began to spread, and has become more intense as a result of sudden seismic activity since last November.

The danger of landslide is greatest at the narrowest spot in the river behind the dam where the width is only 40 meters.

All of the engineering studies for this project, which is being called the "operation to repair the eastern slope of the High Dam's posterior canal," have been prepared by Egyptian experts in the High Dam authority. The project will be completely implemented by an Egyptian company.

Full details of the problem and the scientific steps that have been planned for confronting them in order to avert the worst danger to the course of the Nile and to ensure its future are given by Engineer Fu'ad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ahmad Zaki, the chairman of the board of High Dam authority.

First, the authority's chairman explains the nature of the transfer canal and the circumstances of its construction.

"In order to force the water from the High Dam lake to flow into the Nile the water installations were expanded with the construction of an anterior canal and a posterior canal which are joined by six primary tunnels. This posterior canal, on which our project is now based, is approximately 278 meters wide at the exits of the tunnels, at water level 85.5. It gradually gets narrower, reaching 40 meters at water level 90. Then it again widens to 110 meters at the confluence of this canal and the Nile. This was done in order to reduce the speed and pressure of the water."

He said the following about the cause of the problem: "Approximately 5,615,000 cubic meters of stone was excavated in the construction of this canal. This was done by means of detonations in which enormous quantities of dynamite were used. More than 80 tons of dynamite were detonated in each blast.

"When excavation of the canal was complete the side slopes, particularly the right side of the posterior canal, had a steep angle of 70 to 80 degrees. The geological structure of the region, which is filled with cracks, fissures, faults and loose rocks, and the enormously powerful detonations which were used in excavating this canal and in nearby areas, had a deleterious effect on the stability of this slope, and caused slippage and long fissures in various parts of the posterior canal. This began in 1963 on the right side of the canal. During construction long fissures appeared in this slope and it was subject to collapses. This brought about a study on how to prevent the parts in which the fissures appeared from collapsing. The study recommended repairing the slope and making reduced use of explosives in areas around the slope of the canal. But this study was never heeded.

"That was followed," continued the chairman of the board of the High Dam authority, "by the appearance of many new fissures and the widening of others, particularly after the posterior canal was put into use. Partial collapses began to occur in this slope in 1964 and 1966, then reoccurred in 1971. It has reached the point that 250,000 cubic meters of rock are ready to slide. The situation of this slope has become extremely dangerous according to our studies, and the danger is compounded by the pressure of the water at the opening of the cut-off gates (the irrigation sluices),

particularly tunnels 1 and 2. This is causing the cracks and fissures to fill up with water which seeps through them, causing constant immersion of the connective matter, thereby reducing the stability of the stone massifs. This causes the fissures to widen, thereby reducing the coefficient of safety and stability of the rocks. The danger of collapse is increased by the nearby seismic activity 60 km southwest of the High Dam. Therefore, preserving the eastern slope is an extremely dangerous situation, particularly in view of the fact that we know that any slippage will clog the transfer canal and diminish its capacity to move the quantities of water that the nation requires, directly affecting all parts of the economy."

Engineer Fu'ad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Zaki said the following about the method being used to confront these dangers:

"Our Egyptian specialists have prepared complete studies, and international consulting companies have confirmed their accuracy and usefulness. It is the opinion of the High Dam authority that the appropriate solution is as follows:

"The eastern slope should be brought within a safe range, so that the angle on this side, particularly the part that is under water, is between 45 and 50 degrees after smoothing it out. Implementation should begin on the falling rocks that are above the level of the road to the electric power station. There are approximately 81,000 cubic meters of these. The next step should be to stop the falling rocks below this road. This involves approximately 73,000 cubic meters.

"Test excavations should be completed on the rocks that are not threatening to fall, and a new emergency road, approximately 12 meters wide, to the entrance of the power station should be constructed to replace the current road which has been closed as a result of the rocks falling from this slope.

"The stone massifs should be linked with iron bolts of the appropriate caliber, and other appropriate technical methods of stabilization should be employed.

"The surface of the mountain should be covered with a thin layer of concrete to fill the existing cracks and fissures and to protect the substances linking the massifs from getting wet when the cut-off gates are opened or as a result of leakage. The total surface area that should be covered is approximately 20,000 meters.

"A system must be devised to divert leakage by making appropriately sized holes in the slopes. This must be a specific system that does not lead to the creation of a big hydraulic slope, deflecting leakage by means of various holes of this sort, for a length of approximately 24,500 meters.

"The emergency road which leads to the power station should be rebuilt. It should be at least 12 meters wide, and should be paved with concrete.

The pavement and the detour on the right side of the road should have a total volume of 2,600 cubic meters of ordinary and reinforced concrete.

"The current support wall and the right detour on the two sides of the road should be removed, in view of the fact that they are expected to be situated within the area of proposed excavation. The total volume amounts to approximately 3,000 cubic meters."

Engineer Fu'ad 'Abd-al-'Aziz continued as follows, giving additional justifications for the new project:

"The posterior canal, which the project hopes to save, is the sole source for draining the necessary quantities of water from the High Dam lake. For this reason, whatever the project may cost, it must be viewed with the appropriate importance. The collapse of those rocks may lead to the closing of the waterway and expose the country to grave peril.

"The occurrence of seismic activity since last November may lead to peripheral collapses because of the difficulty of overcoming them in a short time, particularly in view of the fact the falling rock areas currently do not sustain any additional outside force.

"In the event of sudden collapses the direction in which the rubble would fall cannot, by the nature of the situation, be determined. Consequently, it might fall on the installations of the High Dam's electric generating plant, causing immense damage, which may be much more expensive to fix than the cost of the project, particularly in view of the fact that areas directly behind the plant are beginning to collapse."

9123

CSO: 5000/4616

REDUCED OIL REVENUE STRAINS ECONOMY

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 178, 9-15 Jul 83 pp 45-46

[Article: "Oman Resorts to Borrowing"]

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman has had recourse to commercial banks to obtain its first loan since it began to develop its infra-structure, relying on its oil revenues. During the first week in June, it signed a loan agreement for \$300 million with a group of 41 international banks.

Oman has been forced to borrow because of the decline in its oil revenues, which comprise about 90 percent of its national income, and because of its commitments to long-range development projects.

International banking circles accepted Oman's request to borrow money with a positive response, which reflected the confidence of these circles in Oman's potential to face the challenge of the world oil glut and to reduce the shortfall occurring in its general budget. Banking circles have made it clear that the status of the Sultanate could have easily boosted the value of the loan to \$500 million, but Oman chose to stay within the bounds of the original amount. This is in compliance with the strict control that Oman exercises over all levels of economic policy and development planning.

The fact is that Oman has adopted a cautious economic position since 1979, due to the decline in huge oil profits of several of its neighboring Gulf states. It relied on modest industrial development projects as opposed to the ambitious projects that some of the richer Gulf states were undertaking. However, the 80's have greeted Oman with declining oil profits, due to the decrease in world demand. Despite the fact that it is not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries [OPEC], it has followed the organization's official price indicator and, consequently, has been affected by the reduction that the organization set for the price of oil last March. Oman has resorted to the European financial market, in order to finance its basic projects in the fields of energy, communications, agriculture, fishing, and industry incorporated in its current 5-year plan, after the deficit in its 1983 was estimated at about 200 million Omani riyals, i.e., about \$600 million.

The 5-Year Plan

This deficit in the Omani budget resulted from the 5-year plan having been drawn up when the price of Omani oil was nearly \$40 dollars a barrel, and the possibility of it continuing to rise was also still present. After the official price for a barrel of OPEC oil became \$29 a barrel, Omani estimates of its oil revenues for 1984-85 became overly optimistic.

Despite these justifications, banking circles questioned whether the loan requested by Oman was in fact necessary and whether it would in fact be spent on development projects. The reason for this was that the Omani Government had intended to increase a number of taxes, which would ensure an increase in its income, and that it was planning on other increases. On the other hand, the Sultanate showed more willingness than the other Gulf states to dip into its reserves to meet short-range budget deficits. The deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, Qais Zawawi, emphasized that the Omani 5-year plan has been modified in order to reduce expenditures whenever possible, without infringing on the plan's principal goals, headed by development of the Sultanate's local resources in order to avoid importing as much as possible.

In order to reduce the state's almost complete dependence on oil and natural gas revenues, the Omani Government has begun to develop a series of light industries, including mining of copper, in order to complement the oil revenues.

World banking circles consider the fact that Omani development projects are less ambitious than the projects of neighboring states as putting the Sultanate in a better financial position to meet the difficulties stemming from reduced profits. This fact also is causing the Gulf nations to participate in financing several Omani projects. The most recent participation occurred on 5 June, when the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, whose headquarters is in Kuwait, signed a loan valued at \$10.3 million to finance extensions of the telephone communications system, which connects Muscat with Sallalah and other areas in the north, and to improve the current networks.

7005

CSO: 4404/518

SEVERAL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY SANITARY, ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English, 4,6 Aug 83

[4 Aug 83 p 2]

[Text] The Sanitary and Technical Engineering Services General Department has undertaken setting up tens of water supply projects, building health centres and polyclinics in the capital and provinces of the country.

Stating this in an interview with the reporter of the KABUL NEW TIMES, a source of the Sanitary and Technical Engineering services General Department in connection with the activities of the department said:

The Sanitary and technical engineering Services General Department which substantially aimed at building health establishments, maintaining water supply projects in the schools and villages, repair of the transportation machine-tools, provision of the different medical equipments, their activation and a series of other sanitary and engineering services, was brought into existence within the framework of the preventive medicine department of the Public Health Ministry of the time in the year 1965 and its central organ called, the general directorate of the environmental hygiene.

The supply of water for the villages and partially guiding and ensuring environmental hygienic activities constituted the main aims of the department at that time. In the year 1977 it was promoted to presidency and in the year 1979 with coming into existence of the central epidemiological station the environmental hygienic section was annexed with it. As a result, the environmental hygiene department was called after the name of rural water supply department. Its main and basic tasks comprised supplying hygienic drinking water for the villages, schools, kindergartens, mosques, sacred places and other social institutions. In the year 1982 the construction section was also added to

the department.

Similarly, as it was considered necessary by the party and state and in a bid to improve the method of offering social services and effectively attracting international assistances, the central workshops and stock of the Public Health Ministry was contracted to the general department of sanitary and technical engineering services. In this way, the organization of the department in the engineering, constructional and technical spheres was broadened which is effectively operating in offering social services by now as well, the source noted.

Answering another question the source said, in addition to the existing sections of the department which include sanitary establishments, drinking water procurement projects for the rural areas, schools, repair of the transportation means, machines and medical equipment, stocking and distribution of the material and equipments need of the Public Health Ministry in the sanitary and technical engineering sections, the department has fulfilled a series of other effective activities. For instance, as a result of the indefatigable activities of the technical personnel of the general department of the sanitary and technical engineering services, two health centres have been built in the Bagrami and Charasiab districts and a polyclinic in the Khairkhana Mena, the 200-beds hospital of the Nangarhar province have been completed. Similarly, ten water supply projects which include the water supply projects of the Sarobi district, Kabul province, the projects of the two villages in the Pulikhumri District the water supply project of the Balkh public health directorate, completions of the first phase of the water supply project of the House of Destitute in Afshar area including construction of its 50% cubic metre reservoir, the first phase of the Qalai Ghazi water supply project, the water supply project of the Khushal Mena Kindergarten, of the

Rahman Mena Kindergarten, the construction of 500 cubic metre reservoir of the Wazir Akbar Khan health establishments the water supply project of the Rahman Baba lycee and of the Qalai Haider Khan of the Charasiab district, sinking of 100 deep and semi deep wells in the capital and provinces have been completed. Also hundreds of electric and diesel working pumps have been installed. It should also be mentioned that with the completion of the aforementioned projects over 80,000 people are taking benefit of hygiene water during the current year 1982, the source pointed out.

Similarly, the source went on, attempts have been made to take part in preservation and repair of the water supply systems, installation of the water pumps in the buildings and several other technical affairs of the public health establishments have been fulfilled. In addition to the above mentioned activities some other urgent programmes have also been implemented in regard with the water supply projects which comprises completion of some water supply projects, repairment of three schools and two repairment works in the public health establishments which were out of the plan envisaged. The monetary expenses of the water supply projects are

partially financed from the state developmental budget and assistances of the world health organisation and UNICEF institution.

The Sanitary and Technical Engineering Services General department has undertaken 40 projects which are in the plan embodied the current year, of which 5 projects are in the field of construction, 15 in the water supply section, 10 projects in the field of maintenance and 10 other projects in the technical field to be implemented. This plan will be put into effect in the capital as well as provinces of the country. Work is in progress on nine water supply and three constructional projects by now. Likewise, work on sinking deep and semi-deep wells and installation of different kinds of main pumps is continuing. With the completion of these projects hygienic drinking water will be provided for around 100,000 people. According to the plan digging of 100 wells and installation of 110 sets of water pumps will be accomplished in the future.

[Text]

The source added, after the victory of the glorious Saur Revolution and especially its new and evolutionary phase the scope of the social services and ensuring health of the people according to the Fundamental Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan have been expanded and put on the list of the tasks of the DRA government. In connection with the expansion of the aforementioned programmes the ministry of public health considering its obligations has increased its activities in the field of providing facilities and rendering health services with the coordination and promotion of the rural water supply department to the general department and was able to expand and strengthen its cooperation ties with the organs of the different institutions, people and international organizations as well. Its activities and facilitated services in the field of rendering services have been expanded and broadened more than ever before.

This positive policy helped to enable the department to attract further cooperation of the international organizations as well as effectively. With considering this fact in view, the UNICEF institute and the World Health Organiz-

ation have shown readiness that by extension of their cooperation take active part in the field of drinking water procurement in particular. As with the direct financial cooperation of the UNICEF the completion of nine water supply projects in the Khairkhana Mena are worth mentioning. The UNICEF institution has also showed readiness to render more assistances in an extent of technical possibilities and absorption capability of the department.

It also worth mentioning that the sanitary and technical engineering services general department by obtaining vast technical possibilities, central workshop, constructional and water supply means and appliances has been able to put into effect more innovations in work qualitative and quantitatively. Similarly, the department with its 541 technical and ordinary personnel is able to put into practice more extended activities. On the basis of the development plan of the department setting up of metal work and furniture shops are considered in the near future. Based on the norms necessary, the implements in need will be provided and the shortcomings of the health institutions all over the country will be removed in this regard.

At the close of interview the sources added, the department, the same as in the past considers that with establishment of technical training courses, literacy courses, in the current year raise the technical knowledge level of its workers and employees and positive measures are taken in this regard. Also with the initiative of the party primary organisation and and trade union of the department effective measures have been adopted for launching voluntary work among the workers which encourages the interest of the workers from the one hand and causes initiation in the different branches from the other.

In this connection, the source added, the projects of the department in the capital and provinces of the country are distinguished according to the need and financial and technical possibilities of the department in the current year and will be implemented according to the plan envisaged. The prospects of the future plans of the department are predicted on the basis of the development of the department qualitatively and quantitatively and the manner of offering services under the instructions of the party and the DRA government. Of co-

urser the technical and financial assistances of the UNICEF and the World Health Organisation to the department is considerable. With keeping in view the previous developments, the assistance of the UNICEF has been forecasted 313000 dollars and of the World Health organization 365000 dollars during the current year. According to the already agreed articles the

fund will be utilized in purchase and providing foreign materials requirement of the projects and employment of the experts.

The department expressing deep gratitude to the assistances of the international institutions is seeking further close relations and cooperation of the institutions as better as increased, the source concluded.

CSO: 4600/853

SOVIETS MAKE BID FOR CLOSER TIES WITH CONGRESS-I

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Jul 83 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 10--Along with the growing economic and defence cooperation, the Soviet Union is trying to extend and strengthen its political relationship with India by supplementing the existing State-to-State links with equally close party-to-party contacts with the ruling Congress (I) without sacrificing its fraternal bonds with the communist parties here.

The opposition parties in India are following keenly the great importance the Soviet leadership is attaching to the visit of the Congress (I) general-secretary, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, who is being treated for all practical purposes as a very important personality in his own right, far exceeding the attention that the late Kamaraj received when he went to Moscow in 1966 as the Congress President.

PM's complaint to Brezhnev: During her visit to Moscow last year, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, complained to the late Brezhnev himself in the course of her official talks with him about the continued Soviet support to the Communist Party of India, despite its open hostility to her Government. The Soviet leader, who was then in very poor health, apparently did not understand the implications of her complaint and he turned to one of his senior colleagues, Mr. Ponomarev, an expert on party affairs, for elucidation.

Though Brezhnev himself did not say anything to deny the implications of her observation or allay her apprehensions, Mrs. Gandhi did not let go the opportunity of her visit to pursue the matter during his discussions with other Soviet leaders to drive home her point. But the Soviet experts on India seem to have interpreted her complaint more as a positive plea that Moscow should advise the Indian communists to cooperate with her government than a negative demand for break with them in the larger interests of Indo-Soviet relations.

At attempt was, no doubt, made by the Soviet leadership to persuade the CPI general-secretary, Mr. C. Rajeswara Rao, to adopt at least a less critical, if not an overtly friendly, attitude towards Mrs. Gandhi's Government. But when he refused to change the party line, the former Soviet Ambassador in Delhi, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov, told her confidants about it.

The Soviet Union has now taken the first major step to establish a closer party-to-party relationship with the Congress (I) by inviting Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to pay an official visit in his capacity as general secretary of the party and treating him virtually as a visiting head of state. It is still too early to visualise whether the Soviet leadership is treating this visit in its collateral context or whether it represents any major shift in the traditional Soviet policy of maintaining a degree of fraternal relationship with the local communists even when it came in the way of closer State-to-State cooperation.

Current policy: The current Soviet policy is to consolidate and expand the contacts at all levels with the present government and ruling party at the Centre, before Mr. Andropov pays a visit to India during next winter to strengthen Indo-Soviet relations. If Moscow has been hesitating in recent years from reverting to its earlier stance of total identification with Mrs. Gandhi after her return to power, it is because of a marked reluctance on its part to repeat the mistake made during the Emergency of extending all-out support to her in the hope of enhancing its own leverage.

The Soviet leaders seem to have opted for a middle course, which gives them enough flexibility to maintain closer links with Mrs. Gandhi both at the governmental and party levels, without impairing their fraternal relationship with the CPI and other pro-Moscow elements that are against her for whatever reason.

Tass commentary on NTR: But the Moscow-watchers in Mrs. Gandhi's camp are somewhat puzzled by a Tass commentary speaking rather eloquently of Mr. N. T. Rama Rao's performance in Andhra Pradesh, despite his strong criticism of her actions.

Choice of next envoy: The choice of the next Indian Ambassador to Moscow has thus come to acquire some special importance against the background of subtle changes in the Soviet attitudes. There is a strong pro-Soviet lobby working hard to get a radical politician chosen for this key assignment, when the present incumbent retires in September on completion of his extension.

The External Affairs Ministry wants a career diplomat to be appointed to maintain a high degree of professionalism in the conduct of Indo-Soviet relations at the diplomatic level, leaving politics to politicians, without infusing any political overtones into his assessment of Soviet policies and actions.

CSO: 4600/1407

ANALYST REPORTS DECISIONS ON SUPREME COURT JUDGES

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 10--The Central Government has accepted only seven of the 35 recommendations made by the Law Commission on the procedure to be followed for the appointment, transfer and retirement of Supreme Court and High Court judges while rejecting five and only taking note of the remaining 23 suggestions.

An earlier proposal for the creation of an All-India Judicial Service has also been turned down in preference to the present practice of recruitment of judges, directly from the Bar besides filling some of the higher vacancies through promotions.

The decision to have at least one-third of the judges of a High Court from outside the State will be restricted to the same zone as far as possible. The policy hereafter will be to provide for this mixed composition at the initial stage of appointing judges and not through transfers alone.

Term of Chief Justice

The proposal that the term of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court or a High Court should be limited to a maximum of six years has been turned down since it is liable to lead to an unhealthy controversy if anyone who is senior enough to be appointed in the normal course is bypassed all because he will not reach the age of retirement before completing the six-year term.

Similarly, the suggestion that the question of transfer of a Chief Justice of a High Court should be referred for advisory opinion to the Chief Justice of India and some other judges of the Supreme Court, when the concerned person was not inclined to agree to his transfer to another High Court for whatever reason, has not been accepted by the Government.

A number of other suggestions to involve the higher judiciary more actively in the regulation of the appointment and transfer of judges have not found favour for political or administrative reasons. One of them relates to the prescription of a minimum and maximum age limit for the appointment of judges.

Administrative Tribunals

Our Special Correspondent writes:

The Union Government hopes to introduce in the coming session of Parliament, a Bill to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals to deal with the service matters of Central employees. There will be no delay in the follow-up steps once the legislative approval is secured, official sources say.

The Centre's decision to set up tribunals was announced at the conference of the Chief Ministers three months ago. The State Governments too were asked to form similar forums, but some Chief Ministers were not enthusiastic about it.

The tribunals were intended to lighten the burden of the High Courts by taking away from them matters like seniority, promotion, confirmation and pay and allowances of Central employees as also the disputes over the interpretation and application of rules relating to pensions. Whether Delhi will make another bid to persuade the State Governments to follow its decision is not yet clear.

The Centre also wanted the State Governments to form boards, comprising senior officials, to decide on postings and transfers, but the proposal was not acceptable to many Chief Ministers.

Apart from other reasons, the Centre proposes to expedite the formation of the tribunals because the arrears of the High Courts have assumed staggering proportions. At the end of last year, for instance, the number of pending cases totalled 8,45,222, with the four Southern States fairly high in the list. Karnataka accounted for 95,373 cases, Madras 74,733, Andhra Pradesh 59,075 and Kerala 34,396.

As the Centre sees it, the increase in pendency is not solely attributable to the vacancies in the High Courts, but to "many factors". The establishment of the tribunals is one of several proposed remedial measures. A proposal of the Law Commission for amending Sec. 100A of the C.P.C. to bar the right of appeal to the High Court against the judgment of a single judge in an original matter is also stated to be "under active consideration".

81 Vacancies

Of course, the number of vacancies in the High Courts continues to be high--last month it was 81, the same as some two years ago. "All efforts are made to fill the vacancies expeditiously, but time is inevitably consumed in completing consultations prescribed under the Constitution," according to officials.

The break-up of the total sanctioned strength of the various High Courts is given below with the respective number of vacancies in brackets: Allahabad 60 (12), Andhra Pradesh 26 (4), Bombay 43 (6), Calcutta 39 (12), Delhi 27 (6), Gauhati 9 (1), Gujarat 20 (2), Himachal Pradesh 5 (1), Jammu and Kashmir 7 (3), Karnataka 24 (2), Kerala 18 (4), Madhya Pradesh 29 (10), Madras 25 (5), Orissa 10 (3), Patna 35 (4), Punjab and Haryana 23 (2), Rajasthan 18 (3) and Sikkim 2 (1).

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST MISSION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

LONDON, July 9 (PTI).

EFFORTS by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to help find a commonly acceptable basis for resolving the West Asia crisis have been welcomed by three of the major parties involved—Syria, Libya and the PLO.

Mrs. Gandhi, who is head of an eight-member committee on Palestine, set up by the non-aligned movement, had deputed Mr. Komesh Bhandari, secretary in the external affairs ministry, to visit Damascus, Tunis and Tripoli, in this connection.

Mr. Bhandari ended his mission today after talks with President Assad in Damascus, PLO chairman, Mr. Yasser Arafat in Tunis and with Major Jalloud, ranking next to Libyan leader, Colonel Gaddafi. He met major Jalloud in Tripoli late last night after flying there from Tunis in a special aircraft provided by the Libyan government.

Contacted in Tunis on telephone, Mr. Bhandari said that his discussions had helped in ascertaining the views of the parties concerned, which would be essential for further steps the non-aligned committee might take. All the leaders he had met had deeply

appreciated Mrs. Gandhi's efforts, he said.

Mrs. Gandhi's initiative is aimed at finding out whether a mutually acceptable basis could be arrived at for launching the process of negotiations in West Asia on "honourable terms" to all.

It is likely that Mrs. Gandhi would consult other important concerned countries such as Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Algeria before deciding on what the non-aligned movement could do to help resolve the conflict.

During his two-hour meeting with Mr. Arafat in Tunis, Mr. Bhandari handed over a message from Mrs. Gandhi and heard the PLO leader's assessment of the situation in the Middle East and of differences within the PLO.

The mandate entrusted to Mrs. Gandhi as head of the non-aligned committee on Palestine was also discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Bhandari also met Tunisian foreign minister, Mr. Ben Caïd Essebsi, and Arab league secretary-general, Mr. Chedli Klibi, who also extended support to the non-aligned movement's efforts to help in ending the West Asia conflict.

CSO: 4600/1402

FRESH DELINEATION OF CONSTITUENCIES PLANNED

Madras THE HINDU in English 9 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, July 8--The Centre has agreed to amend the relevant Articles in the Constitution, on the recommendation of the Election Commission, to provide for a fresh delimitation of both Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies without increasing the total number of seats allotted at present to various States.

The purpose of this amendment is to rationalise the present division of the States into territorial constituencies while the number of seats of each State in Parliament and State legislatures remain frozen until 2000 under an earlier amendment of the Constitution.

It was initially stipulated in the Constitution under Article 82 that with the completion of each census every 10 years the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies in the States would be increased proportionately, but the rapid growth of population led to sharp expansion of the size of these legislatures. So the Constitution had to be amended to freeze the strength at the present levels till at least the turn of the century to enable Parliament to take a fresh look at this problem in due course.

Ratification by Assemblies: As any amendment of Articles 81 and 82 even for this limited purpose involves a change in the representation of the States in Parliament, it will be necessary to obtain ratification of the Bill by a majority of State Assemblies before it becomes an Act.

There have been complaints from other communities that the procedure of reserving certain constituencies arbitrarily for providing special representation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Parliament under Article 330 is unfair to them.

Though the suggestion for rotating the reserved constituencies has not been accepted by the Government, the very process of a fresh delimitation even with no increase in the total strength of each legislature will inevitably entail changes in the territorial character of the reserved constituencies for these weaker sections of the people.

JAPANESE SHAREHOLDERS IN BRIDGESTONE TO BE COMPENSATED BY TEHRAN

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 14 Jul 83 p 6

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] The Islamic republic has publicly accepted the principle of compensating foreign shareholders of at least one industrial corporation--Bridgestone Tire Company of Iran.

Last week in Tokyo the regime's ambassador handed over a letter from the Islamic republic government of Iran to the representatives of the Japanese shareholders of the Bridgestone Tire Company of Iran. The letter entitled them to compensation for their shares in the company. In return, the Japanese shareholders agreed to sell their holding in the nationalised company to the Iranian government.

A statement by the Iranian Minister of Industry stressed that the transaction was individually tailored to suit the Japanese shareholders in Bridgestone Tire Company. He did not say, however, that in future no such formula would be adopted to pay compensation to shareholders of other nationalised companies.

Soon after the revolution the secret Revolutionary Council approved a decree to nationalise 23 major industrial companies. However, the decree did not specify how the shareholders, whether Iranian or foreign, would be compensated for their capital which they held in those companies by virtue of their shareholding.

The same attitude was adopted towards the shareholders in the nationalised banks. No provision was made to compensate the foreign shareholders in these banks. It was merely decided in 1980 to compensate those Iranian shareholders whose shares in nationalised banks did not exceed the amount of two million rials. These were to receive 570,000 rials in return for signing their shares, worth two million rials, over to the government ownership.

Thus the deal with the Japanese shareholders of Bridgestone marks the first such attempt to compensate foreign shareholders who have lost assets in Iran. It is well known that the mullahs are now doing all they can to appease the Japanese industry and business interests in an effort to sell oil to that country and receive financial and technical assistance.

What has baffled Iranian lawyers abroad is the fact that the Iranian government is not technically paying compensation but is buying shares from shareholders who, as of the moment the company was nationalised, are no longer shareholders.

Usually, when a company is nationalised the shareholders are no longer regarded as owners of the shares. Instead, they are entitled to compensation for their assets. Thus, the Islamic republic is breaking new ground in dealing with shareholders in the nationalised companies.

CSO: 4600/791

POLICIES OF IRAQI FUTURE REGIME ELABORATED BY HAKIM

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Jul 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] People from all walks of life and the courageous Muslim sons of Iraq will take their revenge on France, which has supported the Iraqi regime. We declare that the interests of France, in Iraq and other places throughout the world, are threatened by the militant and Muslim sons of the Iraqi people. Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Hakim, speaker of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, promulgated this in an exclusive interview with the reporter of the central news unit in Qom. He added that the French Government's hostile stand in supplying Iraq with military and economic aid and strengthening the blasphemous regime in Iraq is a sign of enmity toward the Muslim sons of Iraq. He said that the oppressive governments of the world, in this historic period, in order to preserve Saddam's rule over Iraq for a few more days, are helping him in all areas--especially the Socialist regime of France, which has recently provided the bloodthirsty Baghdad rulers with new arms and generous economic aid to strengthen the economic situation. The position of France is in harmony with the atrocities of the blasphemous and Zionist infidels of Iraq.

Position Toward France

Therefore, the position of all our Muslim forces against France will be the same as that against the blasphemous regime of Iraq, and the militant Muslim nation, which has given much blood for the fulfillment of the Islamic revolution and the emancipation of its deprived people from the yoke of the false gods ruling Iraq, cannot tolerate this animosity of France.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Baqer Hakim, asked if the Supreme Council, which is responsible for governing the future of the Islamic Republic of Iraq, has any commitments regarding the repayment of loans received by Saddam from the West, the East and reactionary governments of the region for procuring arms and ameliorating economic conditions, said that we are of the opinion that such loans provided by the oppressive governments and reactionaries of the region are aimed at the downfall of the Muslim people, and Saddam's regime is considered one of the mercenary and puppet regimes of world imperialism in the region. As such, after the Muslim people of Iraq voiced their opposition to Saddam's regime, those governments supportive of Saddam offered him assistance in order to preserve his notorious regime and

to counter the Islamic revolution as well as the needs of the Muslim people of Iraq. We therefore take such loans as a sign of animosity toward the Muslim people of Iraq, and at the first opportunity we will settle accounts with the regimes that have provided all sorts of aid to Saddam. In response to what the future Islamic government's position would be toward the East and the West and the reactionaries of the region and what the bases of its relations with others would be, the speaker of the Supreme Council said that:

Two General Trends in the Future Islamic Rule of Iraq

In the future Islamic rule of Iraq, regarding foreign relations and our position toward the East and West, we believe in two different lines: the first is jurisprudential Islam, for Islam is the belief and policy of our Muslim people and Islam advocates the policy of neither East nor West. We rely on the policy of belief and trust in the omnipotent God and heavenly aid.

The second line is the masses of the Islamic people of Iraq; our future Islamic rule regarding the relations of this government with other governments in and outside the region will be on the basis of the requirements and interests of the nation as well as observance of the principles, rules and values of Islam. Just as the reactionary regimes of the region and the oppressive governments have adopted a position of animosity, so our Islamic nation will act in a reciprocal manner.

In response to what he had said in his press, radio and television interview, that the Supreme Council of Iraq is the only active line for all struggle, and all existing forces are under its leadership, he was asked to what extent the Supreme Council has been able to implement this important policy and whether it has been successful in unifying forces against Saddam. The speaker said: As I said before, the Supreme Council is the true leader in the arena of struggle in Iraq, all active forces are council members and the Supreme Council, from the standpoint of the masses, is the only hope for the emancipation of the Iraqi people. The Muslim forces in Iraq all have complete confidence in the Supreme Council and cooperate with it, and the council has made serious endeavors to further unify the ranks of Muslim fighters and to unify and unite activities in the arena of struggle, along with a unified goal, and has been successful in this regard.

Propaganda and Arms Policy of the Supreme Council

Furthermore, the council has formed a unified military force composed of all active members, and from the standpoint of propaganda, a uniform and programmed policy exists for all forces. From the political standpoint, all forces are cooperating with the council. The position held by all fighting forces, personalities, Islamic movements and the masses in relation to the martyrdom of six members from the House of Hakim and in condemning the atrocities of Saddam can be cited as an example of their acquiescence in the call of the Supreme Council. Not only in Iran and Iraq, but in all areas where Iraqis live, whether it be in India, Pakistan or the Persian Gulf, Syria, Arabia and the European countries, Iraqis simultaneously joined

the council in condemning these crimes. After the martyrdom of six members from the House of Hakim, important events took place, among which the rebellion of the army and demonstrations of Muslim and militant people all over Iraq can be cited.

In response to the latest information he had received from Iraq, the council speaker said: Recent information from Iraq indicates that the internal conditions are more turbulent than ever, and the objections of the people to the ruling regime in Baghdad is driving this regime toward destruction. On the other hand, mutiny and rebellion has accelerated in the army, and the ratio of persons turning their weapons on Ba'thist commanders is increasing daily. As a result, a number of NCO's who recently disobeyed orders and opposed the regime have been sentenced to death.

Economic Conditions in Iraq

At the end of the interview, he said that from the economic point of view, the crisis in Iraq is evident and can be felt. Islamic revolutionaries in Iraq, by causing a series of explosions and arson in oil installations and by digging up and interrupting pipelines, have tested the patience of the regime in Baghdad. Meanwhile, a wide-scale series of actions against foreign experts who are in Iraq to aid the Saddam regime have made it difficult for them to continue their work and to stay in Iraq. The different activities conducted by the Muslim revolutionaries of Iraq against the ruling regime has driven it to distraction; and the mercenary rulers of Iraq, due to the unfavorable economic conditions, are extending their hands for alms toward girls and women and every adult and minor.

12382

CSO: 4640/277

IRAN

BAZARGAN CRITICIZED FOR ASSAILING REPUBLIC AS 'DESPOTIC REGIME'

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Aug 83 pp 1,3

[Article by Seyyed Atta'ollah Mohajerani]

You have memorized some lovely words
But you missed the point

Mowlavi

[Text] Mr Bazargan has finally broken his political silence and spoken.

At a time when the combatants of Islam are in a fateful and holy crusade, when our people are bearing the pure and fresh bodies of martyrs on their shoulders every day, when the people of West Gilan are being massacred in blood and fire, and when the cluster bombs of world imperialism are being directed at the people, and men, women, and children are drenched in blood; while the divine call of the Imam is to be heard on the sidelines saying, if you wish to criticize, don't dig in with your teeth, when foreign reporters have come to the Majles waiting to hear Bazargan's speech, while the foreign press agencies are standing by to see what Bazargan will say, although it appears that he himself has given the text of his speech to the news agencies, and so forth, Bazargan has subjected the Islamic Republic to questioning. He has called the current state of it a kind of despotism, and spoken of the forthcoming Majles elections.

What an astonishing contrast.

Saddam bombs West Gilan, while the Islamic Republic is bombed by Bazargan.

Saddam drops cluster bombs directly on the heads of the people, and Bazargan aims at the hopes and aspirations of those same people.

Saddam's military revolt and Bazargan's political and propaganda attack have a certain congruence and similarity.

In a previous speech he also condemned the heroic Egyptian revolutionaries who killed Sadat, while a wave of happiness had swept over in the area. In the context of the pain and agony caused by the assassination of the people's dear ones by the hypocrites, Bazargan defended the hypocrites and called them his "crusading children" and courageous Mojahedin.

Bazargan clearly sees that his political life has come to an end. He knows that in the forthcoming Majles elections the people, that is, those who are going to the fronts, who are attending Friday prayers, and who are active in the revolution, will not vote for him, and he knows how much the vote of the privileged and comfortable classes is worth. In this kind of situation, he questions the future Majles, the elections, and the government of the Islamic Republic. When Bazargan was with the people, they gave him their most enthusiastic praise and support. The people thought he was a leader and an Imam. When Bazargan showed that he was his own Imam and his own group, that he had given his heart to another house, when he continually stood against the people and when he and his cohorts stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Bani Sadr on 14 Esfand [4 Mar] and afterwards, when they even said in those very days that there was no freedom, when they wrote in their own publication that there was no freedom of the press, and while publishing freely, and so forth... The people have seen through them, and they have not repeated their mistakes.

You will remember the slogan that the people were repeating, and how Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani magnanimously took that slogan away from them.

Are Bazargan and his friends really the standard and criterion for values, freedom, and independence, so that whoever agrees with them wants freedom, and whoever does not is an agent of despotism?

Is it true that the elections will be free if the people vote for them, and that the government is despotic if the people do not vote for them?

Although it is somewhat late, it must be said to Bazargan: The house of leadership goes to the pure, while the robe of decline goes to the corrupt.

Do not allow the first Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic to go the way of its first President.

A revolution is like a resurrection. It strips away masks. It reveals essences. Do not be fooled by a handful of unbelieving people living the life of ease. Ask those who are coming beneath your banner, which of you have children at the front? Ask them, which of your children are revolutionary guards? Ask them, which of you have children in the reconstruction crusade? Ask them, how many among your family and friends have been executed so far as counterrevolutionaries, members of the Mojahedin, or enemies of the state?

A hair has gotten into your eye, and you see it as a mountain.
"A hair in the eye is a huge mountain."

9310

CSO: 4640/324

IRAN

FORMER PREMIER BAZARGAN DELIVERS SPEECH, ATTACKS REGIME

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 11 Aug 83 pp 1,3

[Text] This morning Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, representative of the people of Tehran, made the following remarks concerning the upcoming Majles elections in a speech given prior to the regular Majles agenda:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, and in him is our refuge; after praise and thanks to God, and greetings and prayers for the chosen Prophet and all the other prophets, saints, and martyrs, we offer praise, congratulations, and prayers for all those who have given their love, put forth effort, and sacrificed their lives and property for the planting of that sapling with the three branches, freedom, independence, and the Islamic Republic, and for those who have tasted the potion of martyrdom and who have won and continue to win miraculous victories at the battle fronts. Likewise, greetings to the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, and to the well-meaning public servants in the organizations and in the government, along with our contempt and loathing for Saddam Takriti and his foreign supporters, for their previous vicious attacks and massacres and against our dear compatriots in West Gilan.

In this speech, before getting to the day's agenda, I would like to discuss something from which I personally cannot profit because of my age, and for which you will see no urgency or priority, although it is a vital top priority for the nation, with fundamental and urgent importance for the revolution, the war, and the Islamic Republic: I would like to discuss the forthcoming Majles elections, but I wish for nothing that is out of the bounds of or contrary to the constitution, or the oath of a Majles representative.

I hope that the respected representatives will exercise the necessary patience and self-possession to allow me the short time necessary to complete my remarks, and, as they are called upon to

do by the noble verse from the Koran that is before their eyes above the heads of the Council of Ministers, that they will be among those wise and fortunate ones guided by God who listen to a speech and take what is best from it.

Ten months from now, the present Majles will celebrate its final anniversary. Even now, irrespective of the behavior of those who have been dissatisfied, of whom I myself have been one, I congratulate you, God willing, on the successful service of the Majles representatives and on the conclusion of the first Majles of the Islamic Republic. Let us not forget, however, that the conclusion of the first Majles is not the final curtain on the nation's life or the realization of the joint aspirations of the revolution and the people. One may not sit on the sidelines unmindful and indifferent to the future Majles and its elections, and one must not imagine that the banished enemy has abandoned his plotting or given up on the idea of returning. Clearly, the brave revolutionary nation of Iran, which has experienced 2500 years of oppression, is not going to stage a revolution that reverts back to a monarchy. Those who nurture such vain dreams and fantasies in their sick minds must know that, in the words of Sa'di,

One must not live and die in the shadow of the vulture
One must live one's life in the shadow of the eagle

The liberation movement will be the first group to stand up against despotism and the reaction of the idolaters, but the joint aspirations, that is the sacred triad of freedom for the people, national independence, and the establishment of the Islamic Republic, is formed with two other sacred principles, which are national rule and implementation of the five-sided constitution, whose five facets are interdependent, and whose vitality and existence resides in the promise of free elections. If we didn't have a free and independent Majles, which is connected to and delegated by the entire nation, sooner or later, the Islamic Republic, like its predecessor the constitutional monarchy, while retaining its outward form and description, would turn into a kind of despotism and an idolatrous system subject to foreign domination. At all times and everywhere in the world, despotism has begun when a single shah, a single chief, a single class, and even a single religion has sought, though with good intentions and the aim to serve, to impose itself on society as the sole proprietor, agent, and responsible party, without heeding the wishes and views of the people.

True Majleses, on the other hand, and social freedoms, are the final and even the only defenses for the independence of countries, and are the guarantors of the longevity and happiness of nations.

Of course the real governor, the master of all, and the one who has custody of all that we possess, is God, whose commands have come down to us in the scriptures and traditions; but ownership and security, according to the verse "And God will pit the people against one another to stop corruption," have been passed into our care; he has made the people and the nation responsible, consulting rulers, answerable to each other.

In order to avoid the pitfalls mentioned above and to attain the common aspirations of all revolutions, you respected representatives and those who now hold the reins of power, have two different paths before you: 1 - You can carry out the elections in this atmosphere and under these conditions; 2 - You can hold truly free and national elections in accordance with the constitution.

It is clear that in these circumstances and under present conditions, when the newspapers, the media, the demonstrations, the gatherings, the courts, the pulpits, the organizations, and the Friday religious assemblies are all monopolized by one side, dissenters, protesters, and dissatisfied parties are deprived of newspapers, meetings, and the opportunity to speak to the public. If they were to file for candidacy, they would live in fear of attack and severe danger, especially in the municipalities. Under such circumstances, with such problems, no logical person could deem any election that might be held worthy of being called a free election. The people's natural and meaningful reaction to this, if they come to their senses, would be reluctant and minimal participation.

Therefore, I proclaim from behind this rostrum that any election devoid of freedom and national control, and any Majles it produces, will not have the slightest effect on the attainment of the above goals; it will be worthless and illegitimate from the standpoint of religious law, secular law, and rights, and any majority that may emerge from it, and any claim it makes as to independence and popular affirmation, will be nullified and voided beforehand.

There may, of course, be those who are thinking of what is in our best interest, or in terms of revolutionary logic, or of the imposed war, domestic and foreign plots, and the counterrevolution's abuse of freedom and the right to assemble, and who regard these as justifications for exceptional conditions. The question that arises, however, is do the dignity of Islam and the interests of the Islamic Republic allow them, as they did in the Pahlavi period or as they do in communist and fascist governments, to resort to affectations, false fabrications, elections behind closed doors, and the monopolization of freedom and law? Would it not be better, with the courage and truthfulness that are worthy of those who believe

in Truth and are deserving of the aid of God, to declare a state of emergency and suspend the free Majles? You ought to pass some law, and get authorization from the nation in a referendum, to the effect that until the victory is won and the inflammatory behavior of foreigners has ceased, the present Majles will remain in place, for example, or the country will be managed by decree by the chief theologian, or supervised by a newly-appointed revolutionary council. Of course, I do not have a specific suggestion of this kind, but the enactment of a temporary moratorium on free elections is 100 times better in my view than improper elections that are free in name only.

As for the solution, or the second option, it is truly free elections, where freedom is declared and implemented right now while there are still several months remaining before the elections; the authorization to speak, write and assemble, as guaranteed by the constitution and the laws of the press, must be granted to both the opposition and those who support the regime. All the people in the nation must be free to express their ideas, criticize, and protest in the election of their representatives, and they must be protected in accordance with the law from slander, threats, disruption, being accused of infidelity, and insults.

If free elections are not immediately announced, and the conditions necessary for them are not created, there will not be sufficient opportunity for building public confidence, awareness, and familiarity with the candidates, nor will the groups be able to make the necessary preparations. Moreover, when the valves of confidence are opened, and this closed atmosphere is changed to an open and brotherly atmosphere, that will be the cure for much of the continually increasing public dissatisfaction, discomfort, and restlessness. This is why I have insisted on its necessity and urgency.

I can still offer strong assurances that many of the respected present representatives would most likely find their way back to the Majles in free public elections, and would be supported and aided by the people.

To conclude my remarks, I say to the officials and deputies in the government, the Majles, and the organizations, that it is incumbent upon you to accept truly free elections as I have described them. This trusteeship of the laws of religion and the people, which is the national right of self-determination that is in your hands, must be returned to the people, in accordance with the command "God orders you to return trusteeship to those who are its rightful possessors" [quoting the Koran]. You must either obey God's commands, or choose to regard freedom as against the national interest, and refuse to tolerate and secure it.

In the first case, you will purchase the pleasure of God, your own salvation, and a victory for the revolution and the nation; in the second case the anger and enmity of the people will be increased, and we will all suffer in this world and the next. Peace be upon those who listen and heed what is good.

9310

CSO: 4640/323

MULLAHS ADMIT WIDESPREAD DISORDERS

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 14 Jul 83 p 1

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] Travellers from Tehran in the past week have confirmed that what began as small demonstrations in the southern part of the Iranian capital late last month grew into fierce clashes between protesters and the authorities on a number of occasions last week.

While the government maintained a complete blackout on news of what happened it is now clear that some of the skirmishes were quite fierce. Reports in Tehran say the guards drove trucks and other vehicles into the protesters' ranks; the Mojahedin-e-Khalq newspaper said the guards had fired on protesters. [as published] Some reports had deaths as high as 20, others said one person had died and many were injured.

Reports have also confirmed protests in other cities and among refugees from the war zones. Shortages of food, even bread, have hit the ordinary people hard and prices in the shops have again soared recently. Observers now suspect that the vast sums the regime is having to pay for arms has meant there is precious little left for paying for imports of food and other goods to keep the public happy.

"The brutal fact is that the mullahs are stony broke", averred one London economist. "The huge amount of imports recorded as going through Iranian ports seems to be made up largely of arms and military equipment and the rest are absolutely essential imports. There is just not money for anything else. This explains the mullahs' predicament. In addition gigantic amounts are being siphoned off by the leading officials, sums often way above those lifted by many of the Shah's officials. Big amounts are also being spent on subversion and propaganda in countries around the world."

With little or no work being done in the war damaged zones people from these areas are becoming increasingly angry over the delays in their possible return home. They frequently compare their plight with the charmed lives of the families of those killed in the war, who not only get sizable sums in compensation but favours and subsidies of all kinds. While the rich and middle classes can always sell something to get some added money when needed the great mass of the poorer class are now being

severely hurt by the high cost of even staple foods and are quickly running out of enthusiasm for the regime's political propaganda and policies.

Reports continued this week of wide differences among the revolutionary guards, with leftist factions in open disagreement with some of their fundamentalist colleagues. According to reports among exiles a possible 2,000 communists and extreme leftists have fled Iran illegally since the clampdown on the Tudeh party. There is no confirmation of reports that Tudeh chief Kia Nouri has been executed, nor of the figures for those held during the clampdown and now in prisons.

CSO: 4600/791

IRAN PRESS SERVICE ON UNREST IN COUNTRY

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 14 Jul 83 pp 2-4

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] Leading members of Iran's theocratic regime have conceded that they were faced with one of most serious challenges to their rule during the riots in late June and early July, when thousands of unemployed and poverty stricken people took to streets in Tehran and Isfahan to chant anti-regime slogans.

In an interview with Tehran radio on July 10 Premier Mir Hussein Mussavi blamed maladministration in certain offices and intrigues by remnants of capitalism for the riots. He said certain elements who had prospered through hoarding and profiteering were intent on maintaining their petty interests to the detriment of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic regime.

At the same time, Majlis speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, who has the advantage of access to Khomeini himself at any time, personally directed a campaign to investigate the grievances of the people who have been driven out of their homes during the Iraqi invasion of Khuzestan. Rafsanjani blamed "agitators" who exploited inevitable complaints of the war destitute to foment trouble against the regime.

On his part Mussavi Ardebili, the Chief Justice, ordered a judicial enquiry into the alleged corruption in the ministry of commerce, especially the organisation which is responsible for government purchases and imports. According to sources inside Iran, Ardebili has recently doubled the number of his personal bodyguards. The same sources believe that he is now more afraid of an attempt on his life by rival mullahs than by the Mojahedin-e-Khalq terrorists. This is because he has had to move against the interests of a number of mullahs and their cronies who have created vast enterprises through their influence in organising a network of distribution centres to sell vital food provisions to the people.

Throughout the period when riots and agitation had engulfed Tehran and several other cities between June 25 and July 7, the media remained silent. Censorship was so tight that even the cutting off of the water and power services to Afsarieh district of Tehran was not reported. Nor was the bread shortage in Tehran allowed to be announced by the media. Instead, the bakeries were told to limit sale of bread to two loaves

per customer and to stick notices to that effect on their shop windows. Sources inside Iran say that they had never experienced such a total news black-out in their living memory.

It was only when the government decided to restore water and power to Afsarieh district and then to dismiss the officials at the Cereals Organisation that the Prime Minister saw fit to give an interview to the Tehran radio in which to refer to the Tehran bread shortage and the riots in Afsarieh.

Yet, nothing has been so far said of the riots in Isfahan, demonstrations by the residents of war destitute camps in Qazvin, Kazeroon and Shiraz and the closure of the bazaar in the city of Mashad.

Also there are persistent reports of unrest in Tabriz, Kermanshah and Zahedan. Already two months ago it was reliably reported that in those three towns portraits of the young monarch were distributed by shopkeepers concealed in various sorts of packaged food items. Now, there are reports of the kind of unrest which verges on defiance of the government officials. People publicly make fun of Khomeini in Tabriz, Kermanshah and Zahedan while frightened and frustrated guards feel helpless against them.

To contain a basically explosive situation the regime has had to resort to more anti-American propaganda, especially through playing up the Palestinian question, and to some minor concessions to the people. The dismissal of the Managing Director of the Cereals Organisation and appointment of a new face, Javad Assemi-Pour, to the post was said to be a concession.

However, the leading members of the regime know that such concessions will neither appease the people nor be of long term benefit to the survival of the Islamic rule. Therefore, against growing public unrest the mullahs in the Khomeini camp have had to close ranks. These days there seems to be more cooperation between the Majlis, the government and the judiciary (in the body of the revolutionary courts) than was the case during the past few months.

The leading members of the regime have also tried to push Khomeini further into the front line. Leading figures often claim in public statements that Khomeini is now personally involved in the administration of the country. Rafsanjani said some weeks ago that all major decisions such as continuation of war with Iraq were made by none other than Khomeini himself.

On his part Khomeini tries to give the impression that he is above politics and day to day affairs and that if there is any shortcoming he should not be held responsible for it.

In his interview with Tehran Radio on July 10, Premier Mussavi sounded agitated and concerned over activities of certain mullahs who were against

government interference in economic affairs, especially distribution of vital provisions such as bread, rice and meat. He said whenever the government decided to do anything for the welfare of the poor people it was accused of turning to the left. He was angry that supporters of private enterprise were resorting to religious texts to obstruct his government's programmes on welfare projects. "Do they know more about Islamic tenets than the martyrs Beheshti and Motahari?" he exclaimed.

Many observers believe that Mussavi was referring to the Hojjatieh elements within the theocracy. But just how wide the gulf between Hojjatieh elements and Khomeini's supporters is, nobody knows. There is even no tangible information as to who the Hojjatieh elements are within the regime.

During the next few months the so-called radical elements, that is the faithful supporters of Khomeini, will try to push through a number of radical measures such as Articles 44 and 49 of the constitution--nationalization of foreign trade and Islamization of property ownership. This will increase the chances of direct and possibly bloody confrontation between Khomeini supporters and other mullahs, including the Hojjatieh.

From available indicators it seems there is little the Khomeini supporters can do to avert a confrontation. If they decide not to push through their radical measures then they will have to continue the existing turmoil in which they can neither satisfy the poor people nor the conservative elements. If they do go ahead with their radical measures they risk the prospects of a tactical alliance between the Hojjatieh and the regime's more serious opponents such as the monarchists.

The regime hopes that a personal intervention by Khomeini himself can prevent such an alliance. This means that Khomeini must convince the Hojjatieh that his Islamic regime would be more to their advantage than any other regime.

CSO: 4600/791

IRAN PRESS SERVICE ON IRANIANS IN EXILE

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 14 Jul 83 pp 7-8

[Article by Teezbin; London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] It is sincerely to be hoped that the principals in the exile groups are not taking holidays or indulging in other taghooti pursuits but are doing their utmost to exploit the opportunity now being presented to them by current events inside Iran. The tremendous efforts made by the mullahs to avoid the world knowing about the widespread unrest in several cities in Tehran demonstrates clearly their fears. Their concession that riots took place, even if they did blame them on the capitalists and the inefficiency of the bureaucracy, an excuse often invoked by high officials of previous regimes when the public showed its dissatisfaction, came only after several days during which the worst had passed.

Nobody now expects our worthy politicians in exile to promise their immediate return to the homeland, but the situation demands that they use every trick in the book of propaganda to try to emphasise the fragility of the regime in Tehran, both to the people back in Iran who need to be encouraged by that knowledge and the world in general that needs to be constantly reminded of it.

One thing that is made clear from the reports now belatedly seeping out of Iran is that among every section of the public it is the name of the Shah that contains the threat to the mullahs, not the Mojahedin or social democrats. These latter have their supporters, perhaps, but when even the working man in south Tehran wants to suggest to the mullahs that there is an alternative that could bring them retribution for angering the people it is the idea of the Shah and monarchy that comes to their minds.

This surely must point the way for the non-left opposition to orientate its attack. While the mullahs were not so unpopular with the mass of the people in Iran it was all right to put forward liberal, social democratic ideas as being the alternative to a strict, totalitarian form of government that the mullahs were imposing. But now their public support is crumbling a much more aggressive policy may well be called for. From electioneering type of propaganda offering liberal reforms the stress now, one would feel, should be solely or urging the downfall of the mullahs by any means at

all. Just as in 1978 those who were opposed to the Shah created a mass hysteria and a feeling that supporting the Shah was a waste of time, anyway, for everyone wanted him to go, so there must be an effort to spread the same feeling about the mullahs.

The idea of paying some lip service to Khomeini's special position and blaming the rest of the mullahs for what he has done should also be dropped. Would getting rid of the ministers but leaving the Shah in power in 1978 have produced the results the revolutionaries wanted? No, he would have been forced to turn to those fearless and tough enough to preserve his position and the result would have been a much worse situation for the majority of the people, instead of just the discrimination against the regime's active and aggressive opponents as existed before.

And so today there is need to smash the whole Islamic regime, including Khomeini, if anyone wants to return Iran to some semblance of rationality. One still hears Iranians saying Khomeini must not die because he must be tried by the people of Iran for his crimes, and must not be allowed to die a martyr through some assassin's bullet. What mind-boggling rubbish! It's exactly what the Khomeini regime said about the late Shah, too. These people who say it about Khomeini are no different than the jackasses in Tehran.

If the present Shah was older and he had with him some people of courage and clarity he should ideally go to one of the several parts of Iran where he could be guaranteed safety and support and set up his flag there. The very fact that he was there, with some able military aides of good reputation with him, would spread unrest around Iran like wildfire. If one or two centres went over to him then Tehran would follow, and that would be that. In those circumstances even the leftist opponents of Khomeini who don't like the monarchy or the military would come in on the Shah's side in the hope that their own remedy could be exercised another day.

There will have to be a fight, for the young people who have been given the benefits of helping to run the regime, with the power to treat people the way they wish, with sophisticated weapons in their hands which they have got used to using, are not going to give up their privileges without a fight. But the majority of the revolutionary guards and other functionaries will quickly change sides if they see the battle going the wrong way. In 1978 even many of the Shah's personal friends switched their loyalties to try to preserve their skins once they saw he lacked the resolution to continue. That lack of resolution was largely derived from the influence of foreigners, whom he suspected of being against him and of wanting their own solution to the political crisis in Iran.

If he hadn't believed that, in spite of his illness, his regime could well be in place in Iran today. And even if he had gone the present regime might be much further along the road to perdition than it is today. For thanks to the encouragement of those outside Iran who have fuelled their absurd suspicions most of the people who could influence opinion inside Iran insist that they can do nothing because it was the Americans and the

British who booted out the Shah and it is they who will decide when he has to go. It never occurs to the huge numbers of Iranians who peddle this absurdity that the non-Iranians who hear them say it believe they are mentally incompetent!

Of course, there were lots of individuals and political organizations who relished the prospect of helping the Shah's opponents bring him down. He was the personification of the hypocritical dictator who pretended he was doing good when he refused to allow his people political freedom, the most important freedom there is to a westerner. He also angered them by criticising the western societies for the ills produced by the democracy they prize more than anything else. So the modern breed of western intellectual and journalist, especially Americans, were only too delighted to help their Iranian friends and contacts who wanted to make a revolution.

Having helped to bring about the present state of affairs and the deaths of thousands of innocent people those western intellectuals are unlikely to want to help engineer the return of the Shah's men once more, are they? It is pure stupidity to imagine either they or their journalist cronies would support anybody but those they were caught up with before. So if the Iranian political exiles who do not belong to the conventional leftist opposition are expecting to get international support they need not look to them; they must convince the world at large, the ordinary people of the west themselves that getting rid of the Khomeini regime, with a record of human rights which make the late Shah's regime look like a bunch of dedicated social workers, should be a sacred, humanitarian duty. Then even Margaret Thatcher cannot go on hoping to see a couple of miles of knicker elastic to the mullahs for their wives so she can keep a couple of fellows in their jobs at High Wycombe.

It really is reaching the time for some positive action by all the exiles, politicians and ordinary exiles alike, to draw attention to the situation in their country and to offer some new encouragement to the people at home that their ordeal at the hands of the dregs of their society may be drawing to an end. While the western world worries itself silly at the prospect of a Polish opposition figure losing his job it takes no interest in the continuing carnage in Iran and the suppression and humiliation of millions of ordinary people who have dobody any wrong. [as published] The Iranians today have evils of a totalitarian system and none of benefits, for example, that Soviet citizens have in the way of educational and other facilities. In addition sudden death in the form of execution and murder is a constant fear.

But do people who are not Iranians care very much? They don't--and that's the fault of the exiles themselves, largely living their aimless lives and trying to avoid offending the ayatollah or his regime publicly, cowardly skulking in their comfortable quarters while their relatives and friends at home have nobody to stand up for them and to try to bring to an end this horrible period in their lives. This mindless evasion of their responsibilities by the rich and educated Iranians abroad is approaching the realm of an unforgivable betrayal.

CSO: 4600/791

HOPE OF NEW PERIOD OF STABILITY FADES

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 8 Jul 83 p 1

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] Notions that stability was returning to the Islamic republic had to be revised this week when demonstrations, violence between supporters of individual mullahs, and an outbreak of new, even physical attacks on Bahais spread disquiet among the more intelligent and serious section of the population.

Along with this came the opening of review of the article of the constitution dealing with Islamic aspects of property owning which could threaten the claims of a vast number of people to their own and family property they have inherited. If fundamentalists have their way all property purchased by payments in which the paying of interest to banks was involved could be placed in jeopardy because it had been obtained by means not recognised by Islam.

Then, to top off all this, came a government order calling on all able-bodied males in certain age groups to register themselves for military service. The call was accompanied by warnings of the consequences of not registering.

In south Tehran the lack of water supplies in some areas brought some angry demonstrations. The crowds were so large and in such ugly mood that the revolutionary guards withdrew until the main unrest was over and sizable reinforcements were available. Reports said a water pumping station had been damaged during the incident.

Isfahan, the central Iranian city which is both an industrial and agricultural centre, was the scene of violent clashes between supporters of Ayatollah Taheri, Khomeini's chief representative in the city, and Ayatollah Khademi, the man who was his chief rival there at the time of the revolution. No precise details of the extent of violence, casualties or damage caused were available. But the violence was sufficient for Tehran to send down a senior official as mediator.

The incident in northern Iran when more than 100 Bahais fled for sanctuary into the forests to escape persecution from both officials and ordinary Muslims, publicised last week by Bahais in Britain, is said to be only one

of a series of such humiliations by mullahs and groups of fanatics. Not only did the recent executions in Shiraz encourage these outrages but also a series of public disavowals of their faith by groups of Bahais which have been widely publicised by the authorities.

The oppression of the Bahais has been the subject of protests by legislative and human rights bodies in different parts of the world. Iran's chief delegate to the U.N. told reporters that all the Bahais who had been executed had been guilty of serious offences against the Islamic republic and were not executed because of their faith. He pointed out that many Muslims had also been executed for similar offences. "That's what revolution means..." he said, "things become serious after revolution."

Tehran radio has also confirmed reports of widespread burning of crops in different parts of Iran "by agents of the Great Satan." The revolutionary guards have been unable to protect farmers, who have been making strong protests to local authorities.

Continuing defections from the guards and the dissension between different sections of those who remain is causing serious concern to the authorities. Khomeini himself, in a recent pronouncement, called on the guards to obey the overall commander of the guards Mohsen Rezai and his (Khomeini's) representative with the organisation and nobody else. The fact that Khomeini himself had to make such a statement was seen as proof of the seriousness of the rift among guards factions and the ongoing power struggle between different groups and interests among the ruling forces.

Among a number of appeals to young people by officials recently was one by Ayatollah Montazeri, who seems to have acquired tacit recognition as a sort of vice-president of the republic, in which he asked those supporting the "deviationist" groups to think on how they had "oiled the wheels of the enemies of Islam and the revolution."

"Then why don't you come to yourselves and learn from your past?" he demanded. "When one is heading for disaster it is never too late to turn away. You are the children of this country."

"It is a pity," he continued, "that you do not think of the political independence and Islamic nature of the people and still entertain such notions that one must be inevitably linked with East or West in order to administer a country. Why don't you learn from the history of the contemporary revolutions in many of the near or faraway countries which, after suffering so many casualties and so much damage, have eventually merged into one or the other bloc and have gradually lost their independence!"

Montazeri's remarks are seen as a reflection of the mullahs' failure to understand political realities as compared to physical ones, where they have shown themselves to be ruthless masters. They appear to be utterly nonplussed over the failure of the Islamic republic to weld the people together into a Muslim community accepting the triumph of right (Islam)

over the Great Satan and working together to create an ideal Muslim society. Close observers see this failure to appreciate that there is more to running a country than making pious exhortations and expecting things to fall into place as the significant reason for the stagnation of life and the economy of Iran.

"The constant appeals for unity and warnings of the threats to the Islamic republic are reflections of this puzzlement over the failure of the young people in particular to accept their physical defeat as the end of the war", a veteran diplomat said. "This shows that politically they are babies and have no idea of how to tackle their problems now that the public is bored by the war and wants an end to it so they can get life going again. Every so often one of them makes a speech full of the foreboding they all must feel about their future."

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RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-DAMAGED AREAS YET TO BEGIN

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 8 Jul 83 pp 2-4

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] Nearly 18 months after the liberation of former occupied areas of Iran not a single reconstruction programme has yet been implemented, according to residents of adjoining areas.

"The authorities in Tehran don't seem to have any idea of how to go about the task", one traveller in Europe from the affected region told IPS. "Personal rivalries among officials of the reconstruction organisation, corruption and simple incompetence are other factors in holding up any effort to get things moving."

A physician who has toured the reoccupied areas as part of a medical mission said the public there were suffering from many contagious diseases. Malaria, cholera and other diseases associated with the poverty-stricken regions of the sub-continent are now back in Khuzestan, he said. "Long years of painstaking effort by the previous government in association with the World Health Organisation in eradicating these scourges has gone to waste in this area--and there are now threats of similar outbreaks in other areas because of the now rapidly deteriorating health standards."

Piecing together eye-witness accounts and information received from various sources IPS believes the following are the main reasons for the failure to implement much-needed programmes:

1. The refusal of the mullahs to end the war means there is a daily threat in the affected areas of artillery or air attacks by the Iraqis. Liberated areas in Kermanshahan to the north are also now affected by the intermittent civil war between Kurdish activists and the revolutionary guards. Stable conditions in which to embark on the work do not exist.
2. Officials in Tehran, including those chiefly responsible like Premier Mir Hossain Mussavi and planning minister Mohammad Taghi Banki, just do not have sufficient knowledge or experience to implement any plans for reconstruction. In May, 1982, a group of Plan Organization and Central Bank experts submitted a report to the Cabinet which contained proposals for a comprehensive reconstruction plan. Authors of the plan insisted that the government should refrain from implementing isolated, individual

projects but should tackle the problem by integrating schemes for economic, social, construction and educational facilities. The prime minister never got down to really studying the plan and since then all those involved in drawing it up have retired or have been the victims of purges.

3. Powerful mullahs like Ayatollah Montazeri, interior minister Nateq Nouri, chief justice Ardabili have been urging that the main theological school in Qom should take over supervision of all reconstruction. So they have until now blocked measures by the executive branch to assume responsibility for the programmes and have instead assigned various Friday prayer leaders to supervise uncoordinated efforts.

4. The government is short of money to allocate to the programmes. Despite the fact that the government has submitted a budget to the Majlis and keeps up a pretence that its financial affairs are carried out in a modern manner, the fact is that Iran's financial system is now a primitive one in which funds are allocated to various projects on an ad hoc basis with no prior planning. The plan referred to above envisaged funds being allocated from reparations from Iraq or its Arab allies which were then offered and would have been available.

5. A major obstacle is the lack of the required experts and skills to tackle the enormous problem of reconstruction. Not only have the best of Iran's consulting engineers and trained people left the country since the revolution but those who have remained have been subjected to constant harassment by officials. Since April this year in particular the authorities have been very hard on construction companies and consulting engineers, confiscating assets and arresting directors because they were alleged not have paid their taxes or their debts to the banks. [as published] The firms in turn have pointed out that if they have not paid their taxes or bank advances this is because the government has not paid them for contracts they have completed for it. The result is the depleted ranks of experienced firms that have managed to survive the revolution are now unable to work at all. They have been forced to pay their taxes and debts but have not been paid outstanding bills themselves.

6. Because the authorities in Tehran see the reconstruction effort as part of their overall political operation, political considerations tend to overshadow sound and locally important technical considerations. For example, Tehran wants to encourage some of its fanatical hezbollahis to settle in the areas from which people fled in the war. Because of the attention to this aspect of resettlement the interests of the original inhabitants, especially the craftsmen, merchants and providers of service industries, has been ignored. The economy of Khuzestan has prospered over the last 60 years to a great degree because of the migration of ambitious, hard-working immigrants from Behbahan, Evaz, Rafsanjan, Isfahan, Kermanshah and other neighbouring regions of Iran. Now second and third generation Khuzestanis these families were engaged in agriculture, commerce, some industry and, an important area, provision of services to the shipping industry. They had merged into the local Khuzestani society without problems and the region enjoyed harmonious relations between Shia and

Sunni Muslim, Persian and Arab-speaking, and Christians alike. The destruction of this harmony has upset the balance and has made the reconstruction effort more difficult.

7. Personal rivalries among cabinet ministers, Friday prayersleaders and other officials has made it impossible for the War Reparations Organization to begin its work. The head of the organization is a former fruitseller named Karimi Nouri, a longtime errand boy for interior minister Nateq Nouri. Repeated efforts by the Khuzestanis to oust him have failed.

The extent of the destruction and losses in the war affected zones has been revealed by the recent report of a team of U.N. experts who toured areas of both Iran and Iraq to assess the damage. The initial reaction of Iran's U.N. delegate Rajai Khorassani was to welcome the document, since it made it clear that Iran had suffered much more than Iraq. But since then Tehran has criticised it because it often gave the same amount of space to damage in a minor Iraqi town as it did to the virtual destruction of the port city of Khorramshahr in Iran.

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RAFSANJANI REPORTS ON SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 26 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council convened last night to study the victorious "Wal-Fajr II" operations. The meeting, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam va ol-Moslemin Khamae'i, was attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam va ol-Moslemin Hashemi Rafsanjani, Mir Hosseyn Musavi, Gen Zahirnezhad, Col Salimi, Shamkhani, acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards, and Kharazi, chief of the War Propaganda Staff.

In an interview at the end of the session, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council, pointed to the issues raised in the meeting, and said: At the meeting's beginning the military commander gave a report informing the council about the situation on the fronts of the "Wal-Fajr II" operations, and the captured materiel and wonderful results of this victory. Then there was discussion concerning a special matter, the spying on a POW camp by a International Red Cross representative which ran up against the objection and reaction of the prisoners themselves. Concerning the victories achieved by Islam's powerful warriors, Hashemi Rafsanjani said: According to the report of the military commander, the figures on the casualties and losses of the enemy forces and the captured materiel as well were extremely high and beyond expectation. What we can be sure of at the present moment is the annihilation of nearly four thousand of the enemy's forces, most of whose corpses are still in the battle zone. Pointing to documents captured from the enemy's bases in the liberated Hagg 'Omran region, Hashemi Rafsanjani said: These documents give evidence and proof indicating the affiliation of counter-revolutionaries and Kurdish rebels with the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime. These documents contain material about training, espionage and other security matters. Asked what role the Muslim Iraqi Mojahedin and the Muslim Kurdish perhmerga had in these operations, the iman's representative on the Supreme Defense Council answered: It is still too early for an accurate estimate of this issue, but I must point out that these forces' knowledge of and familiarity with the area was an effective help to our forces. The Iraqi Mojahedin found hope for their future when they entered Iraqi soil, and also to participate in the destruction and conquest of one of the enemy's important bases which had a significant role in the insecurity of the deprived region of Kordestan.

He added: Naturally the destruction of these bases that were nourishing the counter-revolution is a big blow to the enemy. Given the strategic position

position of this region and the Iraqis' thinking that it was unconquerable indicates that the enemy no longer has any strength in the region and incorrectly estimated the authority of the Islamic republic in our country's Kurdish areas. Additionally, according to the captured documents, the enemy military commanders in the Hajj 'Omran base were completely informed as to the starting time and place of the last operation but nevertheless were compelled to retreat, suffering heavy casualties in our combatants' blitzkrieg assault. At the same time we sustained the minimum possible casualties.

Reaction of International News Centers

Asked how he viewed the reaction of international news centers to the victory of Islam's combatants, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani answered: This time the world's news centers gave more attention to our victories, and later of course we must uncover the reason. Within limits they reflected the truth, perhaps for the reason that our victory was undeniable, and that the documents and prisoners taken are clear proof of our statement's veracity. Rafsanjani also mentioned that another reason for this coverage was Saddam's being endangered, and added: Perhaps they are gradually coming to prefer bringing the world's awareness somewhat closer to the undeniable truth.

Iraq's Latest Threats

Concerning Iraq's threats to use its new, advanced weapons to destroy our country's oil resources and facilities, the iman's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: The Iraqis will not stop at anything. They have brought savagery to the point of barbarously razing Qasr-e Shirin and Hovizeh to the ground when they were forced to leave those towns. So it is not now a case of them being capable of an action and yet failing to do it. They will do whatever they can do to our country's oil resources and other places. Of course our defensive power in the Persian Gulf is not small, and I do not think the Iraqis have enough strength to accomplish anything major.

Secondly, suppose that the French and others take our victory seriously, and in the same way that they have shown their wickedness all along, they might place resources directly at Iraq's disposal. For instance, they might loan Iraq very advanced airplanes or even put their own into action. Of course if such a supposition came true, well, we have previously announced the fact that we ensure the security of the Persian Gulf, and that if we remove that security, then the Persian Gulf is no longer safe. We could do this although we ourselves need the Persian Gulf. But imagine that such a day comes, although we deem it unlikely, that France right at that time has no reason for us to keep the Persian Gulf safe. And if we want to make the Persian Gulf unsafe it is very easy for us to do. We can move in such a way that not even one ship can enter or leave the Persian Gulf. This is very easy for us to do. If we did such a thing, what state would the ports of the countries on the gulf's southern coast fall into, countries whose lives are entirely depending on the gulf? What do you think would happen in the world at large if, for example, no oil would leave the Persian Gulf for several months? If the world's oil supply would fall by 7 to 10 million barrels daily, exactly the same situation would develop as did

after the Islamic revolution, meaning that the price of oil would triple all at once. In addition there is no reason why the situation now would be better than it was before. Perhaps it would be worse. I think at the least that if the world's powerful countries like France do not commit such insanity, then Iraq cannot. Now even supposing such a situation should develop, we have announced our policy beforehand and the world knows it, and cannot ask afterwards 'why have you done this?.' We have stated it, and now if they want to be adverturistic, we will demonstrate that we are prepared to confront them.

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IRAN PRESS SERVICE ON WESTERN PRESS, IRAN

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 8 Jul 83 pp 5-6

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] Not long ago the LONDON TIMES wrote in an editorial that the atrocities of the Islamic regime in Iran had so gone beyond rational proportions that reports of executions there no longer made news unless they involved the deaths of more than 100 people in a single day.

Although this statement created indignation among Iranians themselves, to objective analysts it seemed to an honest and frank assessment of the truth of the situation in Iran as well as reflecting the attitude of Western journalists to it in general.

The media in the western world is essentially interested in news. It is its main job to inform its readers and what other services it provides is secondary to that. The accompanying feature articles, editorials and other comment are all related to the actual news. The media may claim to be fair and honest in its reporting of news and it often is. But that news must be interesting to its readers--or must at least conform to editors' idea of what is interesting to them--and it must have a strong element of novelty.

Time was when the execution of a single political dissident in Iran was news because it was a rare event. But once that kind of incident is repeated ad infinitum in a country it ceases to be novel or newsworthy. That is why the continuing executions of the Bahais or the Mojahedin-e-Khalq devotes a lot of time and meticulous effort to publicise specific cases. Look how the flogging of sinners, once a hot piece of news for the western press, is no longer worthwhile reporting. Even stonings, if they recurred, would get the briefest of mentions, or perhaps even a passing comment designed to remind readers of the superiority of their own civilization, simply because the horrible happenings inside Iran have passed the level of attracting ordinary people's interest.

This is a sad state of affair for us Iranians. But newspaper readers have come to expect dastardly happenings in Khomeini's Iran. What makes news now from Iran has to be something different, unexpected, if it is going to make the headlines. Should Khomeini shave off his beard, Hashemi Rafsanjani turn out in western dress, then these would be newsworthy happenings, but

the mistreatment of Iranians by other Iranians and a score of executions of people with no connections in the west certainly do not.

Of course events must be of relevance and importance to those who read about them for them to merit additional comment or discussion. To refer to the hypothetical case of Khomeini shaving off his beard, this would make headlines for a single day as a bizarre and unexpected happening. But if this were to signal a radical change in his attitude then it would have a more lasting echo in the media. Let us not forget that the appearance of Khomeini in his unusual garments in Paris was a newsworthy event. It soon turned into a major political event worthy of vast coverage when this strange figure showed he was able to influence events inside Iran to a degree far beyond anybody's expectations. The late Shah himself had found Iran a niche among the headlines and Khomeini was able to take advantage of this.

At the time of the revolution--and regrettably even today as far as the majority is concerned--Iranians were ignorant of the workings of a free press. They feel for the pretence of the western journalists to be concerned, informed observers of a scene about which they in fact knew nothing. Today those same Iranians still expect the western press to show the same passionate concern with the fate of the Iranian people. But they are mistaken in this. No newspaper in Britain, France or the United States, for example, has any mandate to seek justice for Iranians. Their mandate is to report news as it happens and to sell their newspaper. Everything else is tied to their mandate to report news accurately and fairly. The reputation of the western press rests on its endeavours to report accurately.

Obviously the western media has its own rules of the game and its own, often peculiar understanding of what accuracy and fair reporting means. Editors, reporters and contributors allow their own personal beliefs and prejudices to interfere in their judgment and reporting, because they are simply human and not the omnipotent, disinterested observers they seem to believe they are. Governments, like the Shah's in Iran, who do not create their own free press and do not encourage their nationals to report freely and objectively about the problems of their own society, risk foreign newspapers obtaining their information solely from sources prejudiced against them and will almost certainly end up by getting a bad press, whether they deserve it or not. But the newspapers and most of their reporters do adhere to an overall code of conduct or face the risk of exposure and dishonour.

What it is important to know is that there are possibilities to deceive and influence the media in the west. Public relations firms specialise in this and make a good living in doing so--with no opprobrium attached to their work, either. Many politicians have a knack of manipulating the media. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, Bani Sadr and their colleagues, helped by western friends skilled in the art, enabled Khomeini to exploit this possibility in 1978. The lesson learned then has proved invaluable to the regime on a number of occasions since.

Take the current use of western reporters to try to impress on the world that stability has returned to Iran and the economy is now getting off the ground again. The reality is that agriculture remains in such a disastrous state, as do the manufacturing industries, that imports have had to be boosted to a very high level just to allow the present subdued life, with millions of unemployed and relatively little economic activity, to continue. Many of the foreigners now working quietly in Iran are there just to keep things going for the few Iranian industries still working or to complete projects begun a long time ago and which are absolutely essential.

But press conferences by officials in Tehran and news reports on the radio and in the media suggest that all this is a reflection of a busy economic life rather than something in the nature of an emergency operation to prevent collapse into complete chaos. Announcements like that saying work will recommence on Tehran's new airport are reported by correspondents anxious to sell news to business interests which suggest there are financial pickings. They do not ask where the money will come from if the war continues, or cogitate on the problems to be faced up to in reembarking on such a project in Iran today; nor does anyone query the necessity for such a costly project when Iran's economy has virtually collapsed and the need for it in the foreseeable future has been removed.

This is one area where the western media can be criticised. They do not use investigative techniques before they print "economic" news on Iran; nor do they follow up on reports of projects and investments which have never actually taken place to ascertain why.

Unfortunately, the exiled opposition has been unable to establish good relations with the western media to provide them with accurate reports from inside Iran and to expose the lies told them. They still seem to believe that they can make headlines over human rights and the subjects that were news in the Shah's time without trying to analyse why the western media so resented the Shah and Iranians so much in the Shah's days and relating that to the changed atmosphere now. Since economic news from Iran is the subject of the hour for those responsible for selecting news then this is an area where the opposition should press its case through exposure of the true situation. How to get this done requires know-how and the exiles should get on with the job of obtaining it.

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IRAN PRESS SERVICE ON IRAN AIR HIJACKING

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 8 Jul 83 p 4

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] Newsmen in Paris reported Friday that French officials had let it be known that it was extremely unlikely that the six Iranian hijackers of an Iran Air jumbo jet would be returned to Tehran, as demanded by authorities there. They said it was likely that such a guarantee would have been given to Mojahedin-e-Khalq leader Masoud Rajavi to enable him to solve the delicate problem posed by the arrival of the plane and the possible threat to French nationals in Iran if anything went wrong in negotiations to obtain the release of the passengers and the aircraft. The announcement that the hijackers would be charged with air piracy suggested the French would imprison and punish the six themselves to obviate criticism from Tehran.

The incident demonstrates the continued faith and hope young people in Iran have in the exile opposition, in this case the Mojahedin-e-Khalq. Although, as in Rajavi's case, a primary consideration when such incidents arise is to work with the French authorities to ensure the minimum embarrassment and the security of the exiles themselves in French territory, there is no doubt that this and other happenings of its kind should be exploited in the media by the opposition groups. Representatives of the opposition groups outside France must make the maximum publicity from such examples of hostility to Khomeini and his regime among Iranians, rank and file exile opposition workers feel.

Sources in Tehran said on Thursday there was no doubt of the fury of the mullah leadership over the hi-jacking and its domestic impact. The failure of the exile groups to find ways to embarrass the regime through spectacular publicity efforts at home and to cow ordinary exiles abroad into muting public opposition to Tehran. "Although Masoud Rajavi disclaimed any connection between the hijackers and his organisation he knows perfectly well that the incident is a boost to his own and his organisation's reputation at home as well as bringing new notice of him abroad", an Iranian journalist pointed out.

IRAN PRESS SERVICE ON IRANIAN REACTION TO HIJACKING

London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 14 Jul 83 pp 4-6

[London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

[Text] Iran's theocratic rulers appeared to have been a great deal more embarrassed than what was expected of them over the hijacking of the Iran Air plane to Paris. On Friday, July 8, Majlis speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told Friday prayers that the hijack episode was engineered by France, the United States, Israel and others to divert attention from rallies which the Islamic republic had organised for the same day, July 8, to condemn Israeli "occupation of Palestine."

Rafsanjani then threatened to avenge this plot through any means which the Islamic republic deemed feasible. He said the Islamic republic could easily endanger the security of civil aviation in Kuwait, the Emirates, Saudi Arabia and France. But he added it wasn't the style of the Islamic republic to engage in acts of terrorism. Other commentators belonging to the regime elaborated on the incident in the same manner. They all argued that Iran's championship of the Palestinian cause had frightened the Imperialists and Zionists who had resorted to such plots as hijacking to frustrate Iran's efforts.

In his speech Rafsanjani also made derogatory references to almost all Arab regimes with the exception of Syria and Libya. He said some groups within the Muslim Brotherhood and the PLO were also helping the Zionists and Imperialists. It was the first time an important figure within Iran's ruling mullahs was publicly accusing the Muslim Brotherhood of working against the interests of Islam and Palestine. It must be borne in mind that many mullahs and other activists within the present regime were, in their youth, members of the Iranian version of Muslim Brotherhood, known as Fadayan Islam, set up in 1948, by one Navab Safavi. Two leading members of this organisation--Abdul Hossein Emami and Hossein Vahedi--assassinated a well known Iranian jurist and writer, Ahmad Kasravi as well as a former Premier Abdol Hossein Hadheer in 1948. Another member of the group, Abdullah Tahmassebi, assassinated Premier General Ali Razmara in 1951, thus preparing the ground for the nationalisation of Iran's oil and rise to power of Mohamad Mossadegh, though Mossadegh was later forced to declare the group illegal. Safavi, Emami, Vahedi, and Tahmassebi were hanged in 1955, following an abortive attempt on the life of the then Prime Minister, Hossein Ala.

So far, especially since Mullah Nateq Nouri took over the interior ministry from the long time Khomeini crony Mahdavi-Kani, the personal security of the regime's top leaders as well as its reluctant supporters like senior mullahs who switched to Khomeini after the revolution, has been a paramount consideration. This is because the regime does not wish the senior mullahs to withdraw their support out of fright. [as published] The day these senior mullahs, whose support was instrumental in making Khomeini what he is today, decide to waver in that support, the security of the regime itself will be in serious danger. Many of these mullahs had comfortable lives during the time of the previous regime, receiving large sums in donations and alms. They switched to Khomeini only when they realised that in the power struggle he was stronger than the late Shah. Then under Khomeini's rule they retained their privileges and some of them even found access to seats of power and positions of political and financial influence.

Observers in London believe that Rafsanjani's attack on the Muslim Brotherhood must be taken seriously. He did try to qualify his remarks by singling out the Syrian branch of the movement as being traitors. Yet his public condemnation of a group which is dedicated to the establishment of fundamentalist Islamic rule is bound to prompt the Islamic fundamentalists within Arab countries to consider the Islamic fundamentalist government in Iran as heretical.

Rafsanjani's reference to the Brotherhood came in connection with the hijack incident and was apparently intended to link all activities against the Khomeini and Hafez Assad regimes to a single command centre.

It has been a cherished wish of the Iranian rulers to integrate their fortunes with that of the Assad regime in Syria and Kaddafi regime in Libya. The fact that the Assad regime is not theocratic does not bother the mullahs in Tehran; nor does it matter to them that Kaddafi's version of Islamic rule has nothing in common with Khomeini's political theory of Velayat-e-Faghih (Rule of Theologians).

Obviously, the mullahs feel they are isolated and weak in the political arena of the Islamic world. Being pragmatic and interested only in holding power, they see their chances of survival in some sort of alliance with regimes which are, like theirs, anti-American and totalitarian in nature and have the added advantage of either being Arabs or Muslims.

But this pragmatism also shows the fact that the mullahs have very few options in their foreign policy management. For them to befriend a secular regime like that of Assad at the expense of earning the enmity of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Arab world must be a dear price to pay.

Observers, meanwhile, point to the fact that Rafsanjani singled out the hijack incident to find a pretext to accuse the Muslim Brotherhood. In the past Rafsanjani, and other mullahs for that matter, had had many occasions to bring up the question of enmity between the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood and the Assad regime. But they waited for a long time, and for the

happening of an event like that of hijacking, to refer to the Muslim Brotherhood. They may well signal the fact that the hijack issue was a great deal more important than one could originally think it would be.

There is no possibility of the Syrian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood having had a hand in the hijack issue. Available information shows that the hijack issue was an isolated and desperate act by dissatisfied Iranian youth.

However, the fact that six young men, with only two pistols among them, could slip through the tight security net of the Mullahs to board a plane and hijack it shows that the Mullah hold on Iran is not efficient and that despite their harshness and savagery the revolutionary militia cannot secure safety of their overlords.

One impact of this situation is to further demoralise the regime's opportunistic and reluctant supporters. As one observer said: "Passengers are required to report to the airports four hours in advance of the scheduled flights in Iran. Scores of security personnel go through every small piece of personal effects of passengers, search them bodily over and over again and yet a Jumbo can be hijacked. This will prove to many supporters of the regime, especially the top ones, that their personal security is no longer guaranteed."

CSO: 4600/791

GENDARMERIE CHIEF COMMENTS ON 'PURGE' IN KORDESTAN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 83 p 17

/Interview with Col Kuchekzadeh; date and place not specified/

/Text/ Sanandaj (KEYHAN Reporter)--Col Kuchekzadeh, the Gendarmerie chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a special interview with KEYHAN, talked about the role of borders in the country, the establishment of the border battalion, and the antinarcotic and antismuggling campaign.

First, he said: "If we are able to control all these borders, the arteries of the nation, the main programs inside the country will be easily accomplished." He added: "We must call this year, the year of border security and antismuggling."

He said: "My suggestion is that the military solution in Kordestan is only 30 percent of the matter; the other 70 percent are the problems of the people of Kordestan and must be found in economic, education and development dimensions."

About the situation of the borders he said: "The borders play a vital role in a country and if we are able to control these veins and arteries, the main programs inside the country will be accomplished easily. Since the opening of the borders of our Islamic homeland, both the counterrevolutionaries and east and west oppressors have inflicted their blows on us with all sorts of plots."

He added: "When we talk about plots, we mean illegal entries and exits, imports of narcotics by corrupt and spy elements, and other related questions. In this case, the project for establishing border battalions was planned and thank God, it must be mentioned that in the second half of last year, the primary core of these battalions were in the eastern regions like Sistan and Baluchistan and Khorasan and in some regions, 40-55 percent of the borders are in control of these brothers. Of course, lately, the brothers of the Islamic revolution committees in these cities have been asked to help too. A special plan in regard to the antismuggling campaign, which is an extremely destructive element and has corrupted many of our youth, has been designed and decisive steps have been taken."

Col Kuchekzadeh, with emphasis, added: "Likewise, I have mentioned in the seminar for responsible brothers, regional commanders, and brothers from political and ideology sections, that we have to call this year, the year of border security and antismuggling. In fact, since now, all the brothers have made an effort in this regard, and with the power and strength of God, we will eradicate and solve this problem."

Imam Kuchekzadeh, in regard to the establishment of the border battalions in Kordestan said: "The project of border battalions is a nationwide project for all our Islamic lands, and for Kordestan, the primary projects have started, and in the near future, its primary objectives will definitely be met. The first project will be executed in Baneh and with God's will, the second stage will be executed in Marivan. We hope to strengthen them both in armed forces and also in air force so they can be changed to a force whose presence will be effective in the region, and also protect the security of the borders."

Then he referred to the changes in the gendarmerie and hiring of this organization and said: "When we accept this responsibility, we rely on God, and try to take into service all the pious and honest forces, so that the gendarmerie will be considered not only as military but also as a trustworthy source for the people in the villages and remote regions so when our farmer brother and sisters refer to the gendarmerie posts, they have confidence in solving their problems."

He added: "For this purpose, we have started cleaning the source from contamination and purging at high levels. If the source of the river is clean, then the course of the river will be clean too. For this purpose, effective steps have been taken and we have reached the level of regiments, and God willing, we will continue to the battalion level and then will proceed to the gendarmerie post level and the nation of Hezbollah will see its results."

The chief commander of the nation's gendarmerie in regard to the relation of the gendarmerie to other revolutionary organizations, especially the revolutionary corps, said: "In my opinion, in the present condition, there is no difference between the gendarmerie forces and the corps in the fronts, and no one could distinguish which of these forces are gendarmes and which are corps brothers. I have to mention that combatant battalions of gendarmerie brothers from Ilam south to Bakhtaran are fighting shoulder to shoulder with Islamic combatants fervently."

In conclusion, Col Kuchekzadeh, in regard to neutralizing the atmosphere created by the counterrevolution in Kordestan said: "Exactly one week after the victory of the revolution, atheist and impious groups imposed murder, massacre, terror, demolition, and fire on the noble Kurds. Due to the efforts of the combatant corps brothers, military, gendarmerie, and self-sacrificing Muslim Kurds, and God's strength, at present 85 percent of the Kordestan region has been purged from the contaminated presence of the counterrevolutionaries and all the essential axes are in our hands. But at present, my suggestion is that military solutions are 30 percent of the solution and that the other 70 percent of the solution of the Kordestan people must be found in economic, education and development dimensions."

He added: "The responsible brothers must work towards economic training and social problems. In this relation, education and training have a very important role and must eradicate the cultural roots of the mini-groups."

He added: "When 'Bayanjub' regions were liberated, the people embraced the gendarmerie physician with such fervor and joy, since he was there to treat

them and in this case we have to mobilize all our efforts and strength. We have to send the high school graduate brothers for literacy classes in the villages and also the jihad brothers, and the ministries of road and education and all the government institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran must invest in this plan. To reopen and start the workshops, small factories, to use the agricultural lands and animal husbandry which are among the important areas must be planned along with military questions. We must help to eliminate this situation which is created by oppression for our deprived and good brothers and sisters.

9815

CSO: 4640/303

CAUSES FOR DECLINE OF 'NON-OIL EXPORTS' ELABORATED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Jul 83 p 14

[Text] Tabriz - The central news organization has reported that the exports deputy in the Ministry of Commerce has announced the reasons for the severe decline in carpet exports in a statement to the press which was given in Tabriz.

Referring the status of currency prices prior to the revolution, he said: From the year 1354 [1975 - 1976] on, not only had the difference between government-regulated and free-market currency prices disappeared within the country, but the free-market price was even lower than the government price; since at that time dollars earned from the sale of petroleum were used to procure goods in short supply within the country, there were no gains of any kind from non-petroleum exports.

He added: After the triumph of the Islamic revolution of Iran, the country's economic policy was built upon a movement in the direction of self-sufficiency and a reliance on non-petroleum exports. Steps were taken to prevent the indiscriminate flow of currency outside the country, among which may be mentioned the issuance of a currency contract for non-petroleum exports. In actuality, however, due to problems and difficulties, as well as lack of control at the country's borders, there was an increase in the amount of goods smuggled abroad.

Concerning the level of petroleum exports, the exports deputy of the Ministry of Commerce said: During the years 1358 and 1359 [1979 - 1981] our non-petroleum exports began increasing, so that in 1359 the country's non-petroleum exports reached 700 million dollars, 450 million dollars of which came from the sale of carpets. He added: Of the 450 million dollars earned from the sale of carpets, 350 million dollars in currency have been transferred; the rest, because the sales were not made at established currency rates due to fluctuations in currency prices, was not transferred.

The exports deputy of the Ministry of Commerce said concerning the reasons for the decline of carpet exports: In the past Iran was the only carpet-exporting country in the world, while there are now 16 countries who have begun exporting hand-woven carpets and taken over our lead. Since the economic stagnation in the world's markets has not been without effect on our exports, we are faced with a severe export decline. This decline continued at a fast rate in the second half of 1361 [Aug 1982 - Mar 1983], so that 1361 saw a 30 percent decline in non-petroleum exports compared to the previous year. Even though this decline is still continuing, however, its rate has been reduced, and we are trying to turn this decline into an upswing.

The exports deputy of the Ministry of Commerce said: Steps designed to produce sufficient quantities of good quality carpets and to obtain better and cheaper raw materials for weaving are now being taken to improve the situation for non-petroleum exports.

Concerning dried fruit exports, he said: We are faced with a situation similar to that of carpets in the export of dried fruits, and the competition from Afghanistan and Turkey must not be overlooked.

0111

090: 4640 313

HEALTH, MEDICAL ISSUES DISCUSSED DURING INTERVIEW

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Jun 83 p 2

[Article: "ETTELA'AT's Exclusive Interview with Dr Sheybani on New Medical Ethics Law"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Dr 'Abbas Sheybani, chairman of the Medical Ethics Board, a member of the Islamic Parliament, and the acting chancellor of Tehran University, in an exclusive interview with ETTELA'AT's correspondent answered our reporter's questions. The questions dealt with medical problems, medical ethics, shortage of doctors, physicians' fees, handling of medical malpractices, training of physicians, reopening of the Faculty of Medicine, and the conditions for setting up a doctor's office in Tehran; Dr Sheybani elaborated on his viewpoints.

On the subject of future plans for the Medical Ethics Board Dr Sheybani said:

"After the new Medical Ethics Board regulations are ratified by the Islamic Parliament, we will hold elections for medical ethics throughout the country in accordance with the new regulations so that we can enlist the help of a number of committed doctors.

On the subject of the new law on medical ethics, Dr Sheybani said: "In the new law emphasis has been put on its Islamic aspects, and attempt has been made to invite one hundred percent dedicated and committed Muslims to assist in this area. Also in the new law it has been envisioned that the members of the Majlis and other government officials who are engaged medical practice should also participate in the Medical Ethics' Board meetings as observers and if they have any problems they should bring up for discussion.

Disciplinary Courts

Dr Sheybani said: "We have also sent the Medical Disciplinary Courts regulations on medical ethics to the Council of Guardians so that it can express its views on the subject. For the time being we are acting according to these instructions."

A Medical Office in Tehran

On the subject of the conditions of opening a doctor's office in Tehran, Dr. Sheybani said: "Considering the fact that out of a total number of 12,000 doctors in the country, 8,000 of them are in Tehran, and also considering the population of Tehran, which is about six and a half million, we are not authorizing any new private offices to be set up in Tehran under any condition."

He also added: "One of the functions of the Medical Ethics Board is to maintain proper relation among the doctors. If the number of doctors in the capital is beyond certain limits, obviously there will be fewer doctors in the provinces, and the work load of the provincial doctors will be far too great."

Dr. Sheybani said: "If someone opens up an office in Tehran without permission, he should know that it is against the Medical Ethics Board's position and it was not approved by this board." On the subject of eliminating the shortage of doctors, the chairman of the Medical Ethics Board said: "Solving the problem of the shortage of doctors in the country is an essential matter. The Majlis has paid attention to this fact, and has passed numerous laws on the subject. Altogether we have between 12,000 and 15,000 doctors, but the country needs a total of more than 50,000 doctors."

"I have to say that on this matter the Imam, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and other leaders of the country have asked Iranian doctors abroad to come and work here. Some of them have come and started working. Iranian doctors abroad have been gradually requesting to come back. Of course, we face some problems in this respect, but we try to solve them with the help of government officials."

Securing the University Budget

Dr. Sheybani said: "Before beginning to serve in the university, I forecast a 3-billion-tuman budget, and went asking for it at the Majlis Budget Committee. I said: 'If you want to reactivate the university and also attract doctors, this budget must be given to the university.'"

Dr. Sheybani added: "I have to say that now that the university is closed, its budget is about 1.5 billion tumans. Here I ask the beloved nation and all of those who can help to provide us with this budget. If this budget is provided, we can achieve many goals which previously could not have been achieved. For instance, in the Medical School, with the help of professors, we have increased the enrollment from 200 or 250 to 500. It is hoped that by the help of God and the aid of the government officials it will be possible to admit 800 students. I ask the officials of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to reactivate the provincial colleges."

Medical Services

On the subject of providing medical services to villages and remote areas of the country, Dr. Sheybani said: "The subject has been discussed numerous times in the Medical Ethics Board. Based on our studies, further facilities should be provided for doctors who serve in remote areas. Of course, in the Islamic Republic of Iran doctors should not have high expectations."

Dr Sheybani added: "On this subject, we have talked with the minister of interior and the provincial governors to provide such privileges in various parts of the country. At present a law is under consideration in parliament which will permit doctors working in remote areas to pay power taxes or no taxes at all."

With respect to doctors' fees, Dr Sheybani said: "The Medical Ethics Board took a basic step in this respect; it reduced the 250-300 tuman fees to 100 tumans; and it has strongly prevented any increase in fees. If anyone should notice any violation, he should report to us. I should also mention that if a doctor was previously charging 20 tumans, he cannot increase his fees even by five tumans. If he does, he would be violating the rules. Meanwhile we have asked the Ministry of Health not to enforce these rates for the time being so that stricter control can be exercised and we can prepare a more accurate data on this. In the case of the hospitals which commit irregularities, it has been decided that the Ministry of Health, with the approval of the Medical Ethics Board, will send some observers to these hospitals."

Teaching and Training Physicians

Concerning the teaching and training of physicians, Dr Sheybani said: "In training medical students we do our best to teach them the most recent medical information; and we will try, through the doctors who are trained here, to cease to be dependant on foreign doctors. We should try to develop our hospitals to such a degree that foreign patients should come here for treatment instead of our patients being sent out of the country."

Medical School

On the subject of re-opening the Medical School at Tehran University, Dr Sheybani said: "The re-opening of the Medical School has been accomplished. We were in need of extra space so we took some of the rooms in the Central Library. Naturally, our classes are very crowded." He said: "The Medical School is rapidly becoming active. The Faculty of Science has also started work; and God willing beginning this fall, the university will start operating at full speed."

On the subject of the shortage of professors, Dr Sheybani said: "When the Medical School had only 200 to 250 students, this shortage already existed; and now if we want to enroll 800 students, there will definitely be a shortage of professors. But my colleagues have promised to teach from morning until night."

12363
CSO: 4640/273

IRAN

BRIEFS

TEHRAN'S VIRTUAL BLACK-OUT ON NEWS--Except for brief war communiques claiming the inflicting of losses on the Iraqis or the repulsing of attacks Tehran radio over the last two weeks has reported virtually no news. Even the most eloquent of the mullahs appear to have been holding their tongues during a period which has given rise to speculation that the mullahs are using the mourning period of Ramazan to rethink a lot of their policies--or to formulate some. [Text] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English 8 Jul 83 p 6] [London IRAN PRESS SERVICE in English; weekly published by an Englishman]

CSO: 4600/794

LOAN AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES SIGNED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 30: The Government of Pakistan and United States today entered into their 14th major economic assistance agreement under the renewed 6-year 1.62 billion dollars U.S. economic support programme for Pakistan.

The new agreement provides the first 13 million U.S. dollar tranche of a planned 30 million dollars to finance a combined Pakistan and United States energy planning and development project designed to help Pakistan become increasingly self-sufficient in its energy sector.

The Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Ejaz A. Naik, the Charge d'Affaires of United States of America, Barrington King, and USAID Mission Director to Pakistan, Donor M. Lion, signed this agreement at the Economic Affairs Division, Pakistan Secretariat.

The project will emphasise the

development of Pakistani capability for formulation of an effective energy development strategy for Pakistan, exploration of the indigenous energy resources in Pakistan and investigation of new and innovative methods and technologies for energy conservation and increased energy supply. Project activities will identify and maximise the most efficient use of Pakistan's established coal resources, and aid the private sector in its effort to develop and promote the use of coal as an alternative to costly imported fuels. In addition, this project will support a pilot plant for coal briquettes along with an appropriate marketing system to distribute these briquettes throughout Pakistan. Financing is also being provided to research and investigate in-depth alternative technologies such as bio gas and solar energy.

The press release said that in the last one and a half years the United States had delivered nearly 360 million dollars in economic assistance to Pakistan.—APP

130: 4600/818

LOCAL ELECTIONS ON NON-PARTY BASIS CRITICIZED

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug. 1: Malik Mohammad Qasim, Secretary-General, defunct Pakistan Muslim League (Khwaja Khairuddin Group), has criticised the forthcoming local bodies elections and said that only those candidates will be allowed to return elected as would completely "toe government line."

Talking to reporters here on Monday, he said the people not like by the government would be barred from contesting these elections or would be unseated after being elected.

The Muslim League leader said the Councillors would be used to get approved the new political structure through referendum and muster support for the government policy about the general elections, if and when held.

He did not agree to a suggestion that the local bodies elections would be a step in the direction of restoration of democracy.

He said the candidates belonging to the parties whose policies suited the Government would be free to contest these elections, even if they were earlier disqualified by special tribunals, while those still in parties opposed to the Government prevented from contesting and getting elected.—PPI

DSO: 4600/822

PPP, LOCAL ELECTIONS: BEGUM BHUTTO'S DIRECTIVE

Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

The "tussle" between the MRD leadership and the defunct PPP's Steering Committee over the issue of participation or otherwise in the Local Bodies elections took a "reassuring turn" yesterday with Begum Nusrat Bhutto's latest directive that the MRD's mandate should not be flouted, an MRD source said.

A "confidant" of Begum Bhutto has informed the MRD leadership that she wanted her party "not to precipitate the issue."

Sources, however, said that although the "confidant's telephonic talk with Begum Bhutto is reassuring," they would like to have a "first-hand account" from Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi of his meeting with the PPP Chairman in Paris.

If Mr. Jatoi arrives in Karachi today, the Action Committee meeting, as announced, will be held tomorrow. However, if he reaches here on Aug 5, the Committee will meet the following day.

Meanwhile, the acting convener of the MRD, Haji Ghulam Mohammad Bilour, is flying into Karachi from Peshawar today. He will meet the various MRD leaders here to apprise them of the NDP Central Executive's latest decision at its meeting in Peshawar that "as participation in the LB polls amounts to recognising the Martial Law regime, any deviation from the MRD's founding declaration will not be countenanced," an NDP source said.

SCHEDULE OUTLINED FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS IN SIND

Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 83 p 10

[Text]

The Sind Election Authority (PEA) will allot 40 election symbols during the local bodies elections, to be held on Sept. 29 throughout the Province.

The Chairman of PEA, Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, told a radio news conference on Tuesday that the symbols to be allotted by the authority would not include the symbols of defunct political parties.

All Government agencies would be present on the election day to ensure law and order, he said.

Since the nomination papers are likely to be filed in large numbers, the period for the scrutiny was fixed accordingly.

Rise in population

He said that according to the census of 1981, the total population of Sind had increased from 1.41 crore to 1.91 crore with the population in Karachi Division increasing from 36 lakh to 54 lakh, Hyderabad Division from 55 lakh to 72 lakh, and Sukkur Division from 51 lakh to 65 lakh.

On the basis of this increase, the number of members of local councils had been raised from 7,771 in 1979 to 9,745 — an increase of 1975.

More seats

Accordingly the number of KMC members has been raised from 155 to 200, Hyderabad Municipal Corporation from 55 to 60, and Sukkur Municipal Corporation from 30 to 35.

The number of members of other 25 Municipal Committees in the Province had been raised from 480 to 550, of 97 Town Committees from 789 to 940, of 13 District

Councils from 695 to 760, and of 563 Union Councils from 5,602 to 7,201.

He said the number of non-Muslim members will be: KMC 8, HMC 2 and SMC 1, other Municipal Committees 46, Town Committees 92, District Councils 56 and Union Councils 543.

Justice Shah said that the number of registered female voters in the province was about 33 lakh.

He said 9,445 polling stations will be set up all over Sind, and there will be 124 Returning Officers, 232 Assistant Returning Officers, 9,500 Presiding Officers, 36,165 Assistant Presiding Officers and 32,270 polling officers.

Answering a question, he said all steps have been taken to ensure that only candidates having no affiliation with any political party take part in the elections.

The candidate will also have to sign a declaration stating that he was not being financed by any party nor was he a member of any party.

He said the Election Authority had powers to investigate whether any candidate had any association with any party.

Nomination paper will be received between Aug. 15 and 16.

The turnout during local bodies elections on Sept. 29 is expected to be more than that of the 1979 elections. Mr. Justice Sajjad Ali Shah said in reply to a question. Keeping the existing trend in view, it was expected to go beyond 52 per cent, he added. The turnout of lady voters in the 1979 local bodies election was 40 per cent, he told a questioner.

Production of the National Identity Card at the time of casting vote will be a must. The card will be duly punched to ward off chances of bogus voting, he added.

He said that required qualifications for a candidate to contest the forthcoming local bodies elections have already been explained in the relevant rules of the Sind Local Government Ordinance.

Even if a nomination paper was accepted, the candidature of a contestant will be liable to rejection, if he was found to have violated the relevant rules after an inquiry.

CSO: 4600/823

COMMENTARY ON SHOORA DEBATE ON FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 83 p 4

[Article by Anis Mirza]

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 31: The animated six-day debate on the future form of government, generated by the Fida Mohammad Committee Report, started with a big bang and ended with a kind of whimper. The finale of the long speech-session was clouded in ambiguity.

In his summing up, long time ex-Leaguer Fida Mohammad refuted the charge that the 1973 Constitution had failed and was symbolic of the rejection of Mr Bhutto. "Its success was stalled because a former Prime Minister said he was the party. Because he wanted to use it as a platform for a presidential system. In the 1977 elections he was aiming for a two-thirds majority, to move towards a presidential form," Fida Mohammad observed.

Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada's speech was punctuated heavily with Urdu poetry. He traced the constitutional hazards from Ghulam Mohammad down to the Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) upsurge.

The Majlis-Shoora's first token walkout came when Sialkot lawyer Mian Mohammad Naeemur Rahman's question, admitted earlier, was rejected by Chairman Safdar. Shortly after Question Hour, Mr Rahman complained that for three consecutive days, he had received calls from a man, posing

as Mr Firdaus of the Ministry of Information. The man was requesting him not to move the question pertaining to the spiralling telephone bills of the residences of Federal Secretaries.

When Mr Rahman rose to move a point of privilege on his rejected question, the Chairman said that after reconsideration he felt constrained to reject it. Just as Khwaja Safdar disallowed Mian Rahman from moving his point of privilege, several members spoke in favour of Mr Rahman's right to raise a point of privilege. He walked out of the Majlis, but returned after 15 minutes.

Minority member Dr Stephen Lall from Peshawar, speaking towards the tail-end of the general discussion on the Fida Mohammad Committee Report, said that in a true Islamic system, minorities enjoyed both security and participation. There was a lull in the Majlis when Mr Lall pointed out that a minority girl and her child had been kidnapped in Sargodha and despite protests to the District Commissioner, nothing had been done in the matter. "The minorities support the presidential system but we want justice and equality," he said.

The Majlis will now take up the general discussion on the 1983-84 Federal Budget tomorrow.

GIST OF SHOORA DEBATE ON POLITICAL FRAMEWORK TO BE SENT TO ZIA

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 31: Discussion on a special committee report of the Majlis-i-Shoora on form and system of government ended today with a move that the report and the gist of the speeches of the members be presented to President Zia-ul-Haq.

According to the Chairman of the Shoora, Khwaja Mohammad Safdar, in all, 153 members gave their names for speeches, five of them remained absent and 148 spoke on the subject.

The majority of the members supported the presidential form of government.

The House also heard speeches on proportional representation which could ensure that the party in power really enjoyed confidence of the people.

Many speakers were also against having more than one political party as they said it was against the spirit of Islam to have the nation divided.

The Federal Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Mr Shrifuddin Pirzada, speaking on the subject, told the House that President Zia-ul-Haq was an open-minded person and would give thought and consideration to every proposal made from any quarter "for the good of the nation."

He said the President would announce the form and system of government on Aug 14 after considering various reports.

He said consensus seemed to be that the system should be based on Islamic democratic principles which ensured the stability and continued progress and prosperity of the nation.

The Minister said that after the death of the Quaid-i-Azam and Lia-

quat Ali Khan, Khwaja Nazimuddin took over the reigns of the government and "in spite of the fact that the majority was with him Malik Ghulam Mohammad usurped power."

He said the Legislative Assembly of 1954 was also illegally dissolved. Then came Mr Iskandar Mirza, Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Mujib and Bhutto and in 1972 a presidential form of government was introduced in the country.

But, he said, the people took to streets in 1977 and as a result of which the armed forces of Pakistan had to step in.

He said that an effort would be made not to repeat the past mistakes and to bring in a system which was evolved after uninhibited thinking and consideration of all points of view.

Fida's speech

Winding up the discussions, the Chairman of the special committee of the Majlis-i-Shoora, Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, said whatever he had presented before the House was with the consensus of the members of the committee which deliberated for long hours even during the Ramazan.

Mr Fida said that constitutions in Pakistan were not given proper opportunity to work and the 1973 Constitution was evolved after a consensus. He said he did not consider the 1973 Constitution as a divine document. But he was to keep the fact in mind that the Government had stated before the Supreme Court of Pakistan that the 1973 Constitution had not been abrogated and that it had only been suspended. He said the Committee

had to work in the perimeters of presidential or parliamentary form of government. But personally he would welcome if the majority was for the Islamic system.

Mr Fida said that in the recommendation of the Committee, some drawbacks of the 1973 Constitution had been dealt with and an effort had been made to create a balance between the offices of President and Prime Minister. Also, he said, provision had been made that the members who crossed the floor, lost their membership and thus, in a way, effort had been made to make the politics of the country run without Martial Laws coming in time and again.

He, however, said the changes in the 1973 Constitution had to be referred to the people of Pakistan for referendum before these were incorporated into the document.

He said he also believed that the words alone could not help bring in Islam and there was no need of any constitution if Ulema presented before the nation a system based on Islam, on their own. He said the Muslims of the world were looking at Pakistan for guidance, which could come forth only when the country had the necessary stability and a constitution.

He then moved in the House that the special committee report and the gist of the speeches made by the members be presented to the President Zia-ul-Haq for action.

Earlier, taking the floor, Mr Stephen P. Lall supported the presidential form of government. However, he suggested that people's mandate should be obtained before any system was enforced in the country.

Maulana Mufti Mohammad Hussain Qadri said the proposal to constitute a supreme council to watch the national interest in the hour of crises was appropriate and should be given consideration.

Speaking next, Maulana Mohammad Malik Kandhalvi said the people of Pakistan had no proclivity for presidential form of government or parliamentary system, but they had full faith in Islamic system.

Referendum

Sardar Mohammad Abdullah Dahir supported the recommendation of the special committee, but demanded that whatever the future system was brought before the people, it should have their full backing and their opinion be ascertained by holding a referendum.

Speaking next, Shahzada Alam Moono suggested that few seats in legislatures should be reserved for technocrats.

Mian Zakaar Rahman said that the form of government based on the Holy Quran and Sunnah should be adopted in Pakistan. He said that according to the Shariat, 18 year was the adult age and that should be prescribed for a voter.

Agha Sadruddin Durrani favoured presidential form of government, which he said was closer to Islamic system.

Mr Khurshid Ahmad said economic injustices should be removed and the people should be ensured more sense of participation in the country's affairs. He said the age limit for a voter should be 18 years and women should be given more representation in the affairs of the country. — APP

STUDENT BODIES SLATE PROPOSED BAN ON UNIONS

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

The presidents of the students unions of Dow Medical College, Sind Medical College and Dawood Engineering College, have criticised the reported move to ban student unions. They also demanded lifting of the ban on students activities in NWFP and holding of elections in the educational institutions of Sind.

Addressing a Press conference on Sunday Mr. Khalid Anwar (DMC), Mr. Rurwan Naeem (SMC), and Mr. Rao Jamal Haider (Dawood) said that besides promoting democratic process, the unions

also undertook various projects for the benefit of the students.

The student leaders belonging to the National Students Federation (NSF) said they would launch a movement against the reported move and announced that a meeting under the auspices of Dow Medical College Students Union will be held today at 10.30 at DMC to consider the issues involved.

They also mentioned steps taken against some students in connection with recent incidents in Mehran and Sind Universities.

CSC: 4600/821

METHOD OF ZAKAT DEDUCTION CRITICIZED

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

FAISALABAD, Aug. 1. The Zonal Committee of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industries, has severely criticised the mode of Zakat deduction and its utilisation in its present form and called it as "unjustified". It also urged upon the Government to place 50 per cent of the Zakat at the disposal of the donors.

In its recent meeting it resolved that the deduction of Zakat at source by the banks and transfer to Government account for distribution through its own agencies was against the spirit of the Zakat itself as the donors wanted to pay Zakat to persons of their own choice.

It added that the funds lying in the commercial banks remained in circulation among the business community, whereas, Zakat was being deducted on the money available in any account on a day fixed by the Government. The resolution said that according to Islamic laws Zakat should be deducted at the rate of 2.5 per cent on any amount or gold or silver etc. which remained in anybody's possession throughout the year but according to the present procedure this amount was being deducted irrespective of the period it remained in a bank.

It has also been observed by the

Zonal Committee of F.P.C.C. and I that the companies, while giving dividends to the share-holders deducted the Zakat at 2.5 per cent.

When the same money was credited to the accounts of the share-holders in the banks the banks also deducted 2.5 per cent and thus double deduction of Zakat amounting to five per cent was made and transferred to the Government's Zakat Fund which had no justification under the existing policy.

The Zonal Committee urged the Government to ensure that deduction of Zakat was made only at one stage. The Provincial Government should also approach the Federal Government to change the mode of deduction of Zakat.

Through another resolution the Zonal Committee of F.P.C.C. and I criticised the structure of taxation and observed that "taxation structure of the country is defective, rather confused and needed to be streamlined. Most of the taxes, both of direct and indirect nature, are levied at three different levels, i.e. by the Federal Government, the Provincial Government and Local Government. This is an unnecessary burden on the tax-payer. Thus double taxation is borne by the consumer public which should be avoided.

NOORANI ISSUES CALL FOR COOPERATION WITH MRD

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, President of the defunct Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP), has said it is the "religious and national duty" of the people to support the MRD's Aug. 14 movement for the restoration of democracy.

This observation he made when the MRD leaders — Khwaja Khairuddin, Mr Mairaj Mohammad Khan, Mr. Fatehyab Ali Khan, Mr. Mushtaq Mirza, Mr. Zahoor Butt and Mr. Mahfooz Yar Khan — called on him at the office of the Islamic World Mission in Karachi on Monday.

Present at the meeting, which lasted for about two hours, was the JUP Deputy Secretary-General, Prof. Shah Faridul Haq.

The MRD leaders, desiring "unstinted cooperation" of Maulana Noorani and his party in the pro-democracy struggle, said that a change of the present set-up was necessary in view of the current "most delicate situation", a participant said.

The Maulana, while endorsing the MRD's call, said that to him the movement was "not merely a pro-democracy one, but a 'Save Pakistan' movement," the participant added.

The Maulana was further quoted to have said that he was convening the meeting of the JUP Majlis-i-Shoora (General Council) some time during this week in Lahore or Karachi to consider as to how effectively his party could render assistance to the Aug. 14 movement.

SPECIAL PLAN FOR SOLVING KARACHI'S PROBLEMS UNDER PREPARATION

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 1 Aug 83 p 1

[Excerpt]

A group of experts will prepare a special plan within three months to solve the problems of Karachi in respect of public services and amenities in the City, the Planning and Development Minister, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, said here yesterday.

Addressing a Press conference at Qasr-e-Naz, he said that the experts group constituted for this purpose headed by Manzoor Shaikh of the Planning Division. The group, he said would submit its plan by October next.

The Minister said that this special plan would be placed before the special consortium meeting in order to arrange funds for its execution. The consortium meeting is expected to be held sometime during the next autumn, he added.

The problems being faced by the City which required immediate attention, he said, were in respect of urban transport, water supply, sanitation, garbage disposal and slum improvement. To overcome these problems, finances are to be arranged on the basis of self-help, provincial contributions, national support and international assistance, he added.

LACK OF FINANCE

Dr. Mahbubul Haq said that lack of finance was the main stumbling block for the imple-

mentation of the development plans in the past. He referred to his discussions with the Governor of Sind, Lt-Gen. S.M. Abbasi, and other high officials of the Provincial Government on the development plans for Sind in the Sixth Five-Year Plan.

Sind, he said, would get about Rs. 1,000 crore out of the total provincial development funds of Rs. 4,800 crore. This allocation for Sind, he said, was considered by the Provincial Governor to be too inadequate for taking care of the needs of Karachi metropolis.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq said an imaginative approach was required to find solution to Karachi's problems and he had been exploring the dimensions of these problems with the Provincial Governor and other officials during the last few days.

The basic issue emerging out of these discussions was the pressing need for a comprehensive programme for those urban services which Karachi needed badly in view of its unique situation. This city, he said, was the largest in Pakistan and its population was growing at a faster rate than the rest of the country. It was so because Karachi was getting an influx of people coming from the upcountry. Karachi was also catering to the national needs through its port, airport and Steel Mills and other infrastructural facilities. "We cannot let the problems of Karachi to be tackled by the Provincial Government alone," Dr. Mahbubul Haq said.

LAWYERS TO CONVENE NATIONAL MEETING

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 83 p 11

[Text]

LAHORE, July 29: The National Coordination Committee (NCC) of lawyers has decided to convene a Political National Conference (PNC) at Lahore in August this year. The proposed conference is likely to be attended by all prominent politicians who will be sent invitations to express their views on national issues.

This was stated by Chairman of the NCC Mr Abid Hassan Minto, while addressing a Press conference here today in the Lahore High Court Bar. He gave details of the day-long proceedings of a meeting of the 40-member committee of lawyers.

The committee met here on July 28 to review its performance and to formulate future course of action for the acceptance of demands put forth by the lawyer community. About 30 members of the committee attended the meeting.

The committee was formed in October last year at the conclusion of All Pakistan Lawyers Convention held at Lahore.

The NCC of lawyers also decided on July 28 to hold on Aug 13 a joint meeting of the Lahore District and High Court Bars on the subject, "What the freedom really is".

The committee also passed a re-

solution and gave its point of view on a number of issues of national importance.

It termed as "justified" the announcement by MRD to launch a movement in August and extended full support to the cause of restoration of democracy. The committee decided that whosoever would come forward to further the cause of the restoration of democracy and civil liberties would have the cooperation of the lawyer community. It demanded the revival of 1973 Constitution, dissolution of military courts, and abrogation of Martial Law regulations, removal of self-censorship from the Press, release of all political detenus, holding of general elections under 1973 Constitution, and transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people.

The committee also constituted a five-member sub-committee under the chairmanship of Syed Afzal Haider, President, Lahore High Court Bar. The sub-committee will finalise details and fix date for the proposed political national conference, and prepare a declaration to be presented on the occasion. In this connection a permanent secretariat has been set up.

CSO: 4600/818

TRADE UNION BODIES FORM ALLIANCE

Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

Eleven major trade union federations of the country have formed a broadbased alliance with a pledge to struggle for the rights of the workers.

Mr Saeed Pasha Lodi, Chairman of the Pakistan Labour Organisation, presented an 11-point manifesto of the alliance at a Press conference at Karachi Press Club on Tuesday.

He deplored that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international agencies had gained control on the economic policies of the country. He said foreign debts during the past six years have surpassed the indebtedness of the past 36 years.

Mr Lodi said during the brief period of the civilian rule, the "champions of democracy protected the interests of the exploiters".

Replying to questions, Mr Lodi said that the alliance would contact all political parties to seek their support for the programme. He, however, clarified the alliance would follow an independent policy.

To a question, Mr Shafiq Qureshi informed the newsmen that at least 50,000 textile workers have become jobless because of the crisis in the industry.

The manifesto

The following are the salient features of the manifesto:

—Restoration of 1973 Constitution and fundamental rights and separation of judiciary from the executive.

—Right to form association (excluding for the law enforcing

agencies), collective bargaining and the right to strike.

—Adoption of the recommendations of the 15-member working group of the workers' representatives in the tripartite conference held in Islamabad in 1980 and amendment in the proposed labour policy, and an end to administration's interference in industrial relations.

—Price spiral, inflation and circulation of currency notes be restricted and the minimum wages be fixed accordingly, and an automatic system to adjust the minimum wages in accordance with the price spiral and inflation.

—Guaranteed employment for all able-bodied persons and at least 50 per cent of the minimum wages as allowance for all jobless persons with basic amenities in the worker's colonies.

—Workers' representation in all taken-over industries and Government controlled corporations with financial powers to them.

—End to feudalism, big land holdings and fixation of 25 acres as the land ceiling, distribution of surplus lands to landless peasants.

—Workers representation in all democratic institutions according to their population.

—The spendings in the Government controlled industries be effectively controlled. At least 50 per cent reduction in all taxes and 50 per cent reduction in all unproductive expenditures of the Government, concessional rates of petroleum for public transport vehicles.

—An end to contract system in all industrial units, newspaper organi-

sations and railways.

—Severing all links with "imperialist" states, annulment of all military pacts and ties, pursuing a non-aligned foreign policy and cordial relations with all neighbouring states.

The signatories of the manifesto were, Mr Nabi Ahmed, Mr Habibuddin Junaidi, Mr Habibur Rehman, Mr Bashir Ahmed, Mr Salim Raza, Mr Mohammad Shafiq Qureshi, Mr Mohammad Ibrahim, Mr Saeed Pasha Lodi, Mr Ghulam Raza, Mr Mohammad Rashid and Mr Mehmud Ali Asad who were also present at the Press conference.

CSO: 4600/823

MRD ISSUES DIRECTIVE TO WORKERS

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

The MRD Secretary-General, Khwaja Khairuddin, in a general directive to the workers of the MRD's eight coalescing parties, has pinpointed the need to take all precautions against "violating the sanctity" of Pakistan's Independence Day on Aug. 14.

The call, according to the MRD sources, is considered necessary in view of synchronisation of the Independence Day celebrations with MRD's projected launching of the pro-democracy movement.

In fact, some observers feel the choice of Aug. 14 as the starting date for MRD's movement was as "ill-advised" as its earlier programme to launch the July 5 'Black Day' programme from the Defence Housing Society in Karachi.

However, the MRD sources justify the selection of the Independence Day on the ground that the pro-democracy movement would have an "ideological stamp" for its motivation. Besides, at the

Quaid's Mazar in Karachi and at Minar-i-Pakistan in Lahore, apart from focal points in other cities, the MRD leadership would have the advantage of "meeting the sizeable crowds of people directly," they maintain.

Meanwhile, hectic behind-the-scene activities are going on to overcome the crisis facing the MRD as a result of the "pressure tactics" employed by the Lahore/Rawalpindi dissident group of the defunct PPP in respect of the forthcoming local bodies' polls. In the absence of an understanding on the issue there is, according to observers, a risk of the "extremist elements" in the MRD's component parties deciding "to have it out among themselves."

It is recalled that the defunct Jinnah-i-Istiqal and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam had promised not to take part in the LB elections with a proviso that the MRD's similar decision would be "unanimous."

CSO: 4600/821

CUTS IN SIXTH PLAN ALLOCATIONS FOR PROVINCES LIKELY

Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Aug 1: More cuts are likely to be made in the provincial allocations for the Sixth Five-Year Plan, it was officially learnt.

These sources informed Dawn that a joint four member fact-finding mission from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank was currently engaged in holding scheduled and unscheduled meetings with heads of provincial departments.

These "surprise" meetings were termed as a part of special assignments to the officials of the funds-giving agencies to Pakistan, to file final reports for the release of curtailed amount of funds, required for the first and second year of the sixth Five-Year Plan period.

In the meantime a high level meeting, to be presided over by Mr Baqai, of the Planning Commission, Islamabad, would be held in the Civil Secretariat on Aug 4. Prior to that, a joint meeting of the Punjab Government Secretaries would be held in the Committee Room on Aug 3 to finalise the amount, to be demanded for the development and on-going projects, required for the next Five-Year Plan.

Aug 4 was scheduled to be presided over by Dr Mahbubul Haq, Federal Minister for Planning and Development.

According to figures available, 23 heads have been prescribed for the Sixth Five-Year Plan allocations for Punjab, for which funds totalling about Rs 25 billion had been promised in the draft as against the demand of about Rs 41 billion.

There are also indications for certain readjustments in the sectoral allocations, perhaps by giving priority to the rural development.

According to more details, against the allocations of about Rs 14.25 billion in the Fifth Five-Year Plan and additional sum of about Rs 10.79 billion had been made. If calculated in terms of rupee value — keeping in view the rate of inflation and purchasing power of Pakistan rupee in the international market — the amount would be almost below the Fifth Five-Year Plan allocations.

According to sectoral comparison of the Fifth and Sixth Five-Year Plan, the agriculture and agriculture credit would get a sum of about Rs 4.2 billion as against about Rs 2.79 billion. The rural development would get an allocation of about Rs 1.40 billion, as against the Fifth Five-Year plan's allocations of about Rs 1.14 billion.

CSO: 4600/822

SIXTH PLAN PROJECTS FOR NWFP DISCUSSED

Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 23 Jul 83 pp 1, 6

[Text]

ABBOTTABAD, July 27: A high-level meeting here today identified the projects in energy, water, irrigation, communications, industry, agriculture, and rural development sectors, proposed to be included in the 6th Five Year Plan for the socio-economic development of the province.

The meeting, presided over by the NWFP Governor Lt-Gen. Fazle Haq and attended among others by the Federal Minister for Planning and Development Dr. Mehboobul Haq, was part of a series of such meetings at the provincial capitals to give final shape to the 6th Five Year Plan.

The meeting lasted about five hours.

Dr. Mehboobul Haq later told a Press conference that the meeting discussed various policy issues with particular reference to the possibility of not only increasing the provincial annual development programme but also to seek utilization of greater portion of the federal development funds in the province.

The meeting also reviewed the question pertaining to the locations of various projects to be initiated by public corporations which were to spend about Rs. 6500 crore during the Sixth Five Year Plan.

Dr. Mehboobul Haq said that it was decided to accord special priority to the water, energy, communications, industry, agri-

culture and rural development sectors.

In the water sector, the Gomal Zam project, which was expected to cost about Rs. 350 crore was identified to be included in the plan.

He described it as a good project technically and economically and said that a final decision on it would be taken in about two to three months after studying various aspects of its feasibility report.

The project, he said, would be implemented under the special development programme.

Similarly, he said, the NWFP government was giving due priority to the Pehur Canal Project, which would cost about Rs. 70 crore.

The Federal Planning and Development Minister also referred to the Marcan SCARP, currently in progress at a total cost of over Rs. 200 crore, and said that the feasibility of the Swabi Canal Project was being studied for inclusion in the 6th Five Year Plan.

The cost of the project was estimated at about Rs. 400 crore at present.

The meeting also discussed the question of installation of mini hydel power plants in the hilly areas of NWFP for rapid rural electrification.

Five such projects were identified for inclusion in the plan.

These would be located in Chitral district and Hazara Division.

Dr. Mehboobul Haq said that negotiations were currently underway with the NWFPDA for the selection of sites for installation of more such plants.

In the communication sector Dr. Mehboobul Haq said that top priority was being given to the Peshawar-D.I. Khan national highway, which would be completed at a total cost of about Rs. 200 crore.

Efforts would be made to include the project on priority basis in the federal development programme.

The highway on completion would reduce the distance between Peshawar and Karachi by about 200 miles, he said.

He said that the projects of Konat tunnel would be included in the plan.

The question of construction of Lowari Tunnel or an all weather road, between Swat and Chitral was also being examined.

The project, which was expected to cost about Rs. 70 crore would be finalized in October and was proposed to be implemented under the special development programme for the tribal areas.

The Minister also referred to the unsatisfactory response of the private sector in industry and said that the meeting was convinced of the need of a greater role of the public sector to ensure accelerated industrialization of the NWFP.

He said possibility of setting up of a phosphatic fertilizer project involving an expenditure of over Rs. 60 crore in the public sector would be examined.

Already, he said, the Rs. 37 crore rock phosphate scheme was under implementation in Hazara Division.

It was also proposed to establish at least one more cement plant in NWFP, during the 6th Plan period, he said adding that the federal government would also see to establish a major industrial project as heavy electrical complex or small tractor manufacturing unit, in the NWFP.

Besides, he said, it was also proposed to set up a railway locomotive assembly or manu-

facturing plant with a capacity of 30 locomotives in the NWFP.

A scheme to increase production or assembly capacity would also be brought to this province, he said.

The Minister said that the meeting also decided to review the incentives available for the private entrepreneurs, besides improving the infrastructure in the industrial estates to attract private investment.

Dr. Mehboobul Haq stated that the federal government also proposed to undertake socio-economic development in the tribal areas under a special development programme.

It was the endeavour of the government, he said, to finalize various projects proposed to be included in the programme by November next so that those could be submitted to the consortium, scheduled to meet on December 7 this year.

He estimated that about Rs. 200 crore would be spent on the special development programme.

The projects to be included in the special development programme were Gomal Zam project, Lowari and Kohat tunnel projects, mini hydel power projects.

The Minister revealed that a new airport was also proposed to be built in Hazara division during the plan period.

The Minister stated that about Rs. 70 crore had been allocated for the Ayub Medical College. Besides, he said, the D.I. Khan-Darya Khan bridge and Chashma Right Bank Canal would also be completed during the 6th Plan period.

Dr. Mehboobul Haq told another questioner that he would hold another round of high-level meetings in Peshawar in October next, after finalizing the projects, identified at the meeting.

At the outset of the Press conference, the Provincial Governor, Lt. Gen. Fazle Haq also briefly mentioned the outcome of the meeting, which was attended by Mr. Moin Baqai, Federal Secretary for Planning and Development, Provincial Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary and other high officials of the provincial government.—

PAKISTAN TO HELP NEPAL IN LEATHER, TEXTILES

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Jul 83 p 8

[Text]

An agreement, providing for collaboration in the development of textile and leather sectors in Nepal and setting up an integrated textile mill as a joint venture in Nepal has been concluded between the Pakistan delegation, at present on a visit to Nepal, and the Government of Nepal.

According to Investment Advisory Centre of Pakistan sources in Karachi, the agreement was signed by the leader of Pakistan delegation and IACP Managing Director Reza Syed and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Nepal J. I. Satyal.

According to the agreement, the IACP will prepare a master plan for the development of Nepal's textile industry and a detailed feasibility study on setting up a joint Pakistan-Nepal project of an integrated textile mill.

The textile Industry Research and Development Centre (TIRDC) of Pakistan will help Nepal in setting up a similar institute there and besides setting up a common facilities centre in Nepal.

TIRDC and Leather Industry Development Centre (LIDC) will provide training to about 20 Nepalese technicians in their running textile and leather industries.

Satyal congratulated Syed on preparing a realistic assistance programme for Nepal and expressed the confidence that this would further enhance the already existing cordial and friendly relations between the two countries.

ISLAMABAD'S DEVELOPMENT REVIEWED; FUTURE PLANS DISCUSSED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 2 Aug 83 p 8

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Aug 1--Islamabad is perhaps the world's greenest capital with 11 million trees a green belt in each sector, 200,000 square-metre rose and jasmine garden and the 200 sq-km Islamabad park in the making.

With the Shakarparian Hills and Rawal Lake as its backdrop Islamabad has woods all round it and an undulating terrain studded with soft ravines and torrents.

Each of its eight sectors developed so far--in all there will be 40 sectors--has its own market one primary and one secondary school, a dispensary and a community centre. Each sector is spread over 3 sq km.

These are the impressions given in a despatch published recently in the Tribune Chandigarh of a UNI correspondent who recently visited Islamabad.

The UNI correspondent said that Mr Saeed Qureshi, who was then Acting Chairman of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is proud of his city and quoted him saying "for one thing the master plan is strictly followed and for another, the CDA has a panel of registered Architects who design all the houses".

Brief History

The capital, with a population of only 25,000 is spread out over 900 sq. km. nearly nine times the size of the union territory of Chandigarh with a population of +000,000. Islamabad is vast enough to accommodate several million more. By and by the city is growing. Pakistani residents abroad are keen to buy plots in Islamabad and more and more applications are coming in. Allotment of plots is made by draw of lots.

Giving a brief history of the Capital, Mr. Qureshi said that President Ayub Khan appointed the Federal Capital Commission in February 1959, to come up with suggestions for a new capital. The Commission suggested a new site. In June 1959 a Greek firm--Doxiadis Associates of Athens--was asked to prepare the master plan. The Capital Development Authority was set up in 1960 and the work started on the first sector of Islamabad in 1961. Islamabad is like the US Capital, Washington DC it is federally administered and is a district by itself. It is not part of Punjab.

Islamabad has no Municipal Corporation. All the municipal facilities are provided by the Capital Development Authority which also looks after landscaping, horticulture and tree plantation.

Renowned architects have been associated with Islamabad. Edward Stone, famed American Architect who built the American Embassy in Delhi, has designed the President's House and the Parliament building. The six storey Foreign Office is the handiwork of GIO point, well-known Italian Architect.

Faisal Mosque

A publication put out by the CDA says: The city has the highest number of mosques per capita. A grand National Mosque, befitting the city of Islam has been provided for in the master plan. The world's largest Mosque named as the Faisal Masjid after the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, is coming up at the extreme end of the city. Spread over 190,000 square metres, its 88-metre high dome will tower above the city. The main prayer hall, will accommodate 10,000. The verandah porticos and the main courtyard will provide space for 64,000.

All the money going into the building of the mosque is coming from Saudi Arabia. The late King Faisal offered to underwrite the expenses during his visit to Islamabad.

The Grand Mosque is yet another unique feature of Islamabad, the city with a personality concludes the UNI correspondent.

CSO: 4600/820

DRASTIC MEASURES SUGGESTED TO CURE SICK INDUSTRIES

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 3 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Stop Talking of Industrial Sickness"]

[Text]

Over the years sick industries have become a permanent sector of the economy consuming a substantial portion of the nation's scarce resources in the name of revival effort. But the hopes and promises of revival have not materialized so far. It all began in the early seventies when adverse international conditions pushed the country's premier industrial sector, textiles, into a crisis which ultimately led to the closure of the major section of the industry. The sickness then was genuine. It was accentuated by the attitude adopted by the then Government. However, in later years, the problem was taken up seriously. Efforts were initiated to treat the sick and help them revive. In the beginning, keeping with our traditions, ad hoc steps were taken in this regard. These did not prove effective. On the contrary, the measures taken encouraged some others to fall sick, for sick-

ness appeared to be the best way of making huge money without doing anything. By the time the succour was institutionalised, considerable expansion in the sick industrial sector had taken place. This led to the replacement of a committee set up for the purpose, by a new one in May 1980 which came to be known as the Beg Committee. This Committee set to work naturally in bureaucratic style. There were actually two committees; the main committee and a sub-committee. The latter had to go into the details of sickness and suggest remedies, and the former had to approve of these measures and translate them into concrete terms. The procedure was bound to create delays. So it did, while the situation continued to deteriorate. All these years, the sick continued to be pampered, nay over-pampered, gobbling heavy doses of so-called credits (so-called because none of the recipients ap-

parently yet has the capacity to repay). In almost all economic debates, the sick industrial sector figures prominently and the men-in-authority almost always talk of its speedy recovery. The echo was heard once again in the current session of the Majlis-i-Shura and, we are sure, it might be heard in many a session to come.

According to the latest reports, the Beg Committee was given to scrutinise the cases of 383 units out of which it could only provide assistance to only 176. It is not clear that whether these 176 have revived or are in the process of revival. The cases of some more units were to be considered late last month. What measures have been suggested in respect of them, is also yet to be known.

There are no two opinions about the fact that it is not the units but the managements which are sick. As such, dumping of large resources in this sector cannot prove to be an effective remedy of the situation. Steps have got to be taken to change the management. As

a matter of principle, no financial assistance to the sick units should be provided without the change in their management, unless the causes of sickness are proved to be beyond the management's control. Where this remedy has been applied, it has produced encouraging results and where the management did not change even heavy doses of additional resources could not do any good. The sick sector also includes units which have lost their viability and need to be liquidated without further loss of time or resources. This remedy will have to be resorted to. We have spent too much of resources and time over the issue. As a matter of fact, people now are sick of hearing about the sick units. It is high time that all talk about the sick industrial units came to an end. Drastic measures must be taken for the revival of the entire sick sector. Those which fail to react positively in a specified period of time should be treated as dead and liquidated without any hesitation. It is imperative in the overall interest of the economy.

PLANNING MINISTER TALKS OF NEW ERA OF INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Jul 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Planning and Development Minister, Dr. Mahbubul Haq, said in Karachi yesterday that a bright future lay ahead for industrial development, and expressed the hope that a new era of industrial growth would be ushered in during the next five years, in Pakistan.

The Minister held a meeting with traders and industrialists from all over the country and held discussions with them on "the new compact between the public and private sectors during the Sixth Five-Year Plan" at a local hotel yesterday. The meeting had been sponsored by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Speaking on the subject, Dr. Mahbubul Haq said there should be no monopoly for either the public or private sectors in any branch of the economy, and added that there should be open competition in all sectors of the economy. He said any area, monopolised by the public sector, should be thrown open to private sector and vice versa.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq, while replying to questions, said that the Government sanctioned industrial units, involving investment of Rs. 46 billion during the last few years and about 40 per cent of these projects were now nearing completion.

The Minister referred to the industrial growth which touched the figure of nine per cent during the last few years, and said that the achievement of industrial growth in the coming years would be beyond expectations. There was a lot of enterprise in the country,

he added.

He said the rate of industrial growth in Pakistan could favourably be compared with that in other countries, and said that it was certainly higher than many other countries.

To a question, he said the labour policy was still under consideration, but expressed the hope that this policy would be framed before the new industrial policy and investment schedule were announced. The new industrial policy and investment schedule, he said, would be made public in October or November next.

To another question, he said that the Government was expecting enough interest in investment in Pakistan to be shown by the United States, Japan and some other countries.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq, however, made it clear that the Government would certainly welcome foreign collaboration, but emphasis would be laid on manufacturing side. The country now should go beyond the stage of packaging and assembly operations, he added.

JOINT VENTURES

He said that the basis of joint ventures with foreign parties would be the revival and stimulation of the private investment in the country.

He said in the absence of a declared long-term investment policy developments in this field had taken place on an ad-hoc year-to-year basis "and due to this lack of stability and proper planning the entire nation had suffered".

APP adds:

Dr. Mahbubul Haq said among the other consequences of this lack in formulating an investment policy on the national level (the last one having been drawn up in 1959) was that the private sector

had been "sweared away" from investing money in the various fields of the economy.

He voiced his firm belief in the need for settling some of arguments which had arisen in the past about the objectives of national development, the means to be adopted to achieve it and the roles to be played by the public and private sectors in this task, and arriving at "a consensus acceptable to all" regarding these issues.

KEY OBJECTIVES

He said a committee had been established to define key objectives in the new Five-Year Investment Policy and Schedule, outline the potential area where finance would be needed, lay down guidelines for the public and private sectors, how to speed up the development of the more backward regions, especially Baluchistan and NWFP streamline sanctioning procedure for new projects, encourage small-scale industries, the role of foreign investment and the "social barometers" for this entire exercise.

NEW CHARTER

Dr. Mahbubul Haq stated that the new Five-Year National Investment Policy and Schedule to be announced during the next three or four months (i.e. October/November, 1983) would among other things be "a new charter for private investment" to which the Federal Government would commit itself.

Regarding the question of "a new compact between the public and private sectors", he said this must rest on three principles, namely:

- Firstly, no monopoly for either the public or private sectors in any branch of the economy, open competition should obtain in all sectors of the economy, and any area monopolised by the public sector should be thrown open to the private sector, and vice versa.
- Secondly, there should be "accommodation" between the public and private sectors, and no hostility and...
- Thirdly, there should be a debate on the ends and objectives of the industrialisation and modernisation of the country as a whole and speeding up development of the more backward areas.

The means and instruments to be adopted in achieving these goals could be kept flexible, but the ends were of overwhelming importance, and there should be a national debate on the objec-

tives and goals of the industrialisation and investment policies to be adopted in the future.

He went on to note that private investment in the coming five years—the period of the Sixth Five-Year Plan—would not just be directed towards the industrial sphere, which will in fact only receive 25 per cent of total private sector funds, with the remaining 75 per cent going towards agriculture, housing, transport and services.

INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT

Despite the fact that industrial investment in the Sixth Five-Year Plan was to be stepped up the above ratio of 75 per cent private investment going to the non-industrial sector and only 25 per cent towards the setting up of new industrial units would persist during the entire period (1983-88).

In the light of complaints made by financial institutions regarding the lack of "solid developmental projects" in which they could invest funds, and the absence of proper guidance in this field, Dr. Mahbubul Haq suggested the establishment of "an independent entity" (to be set up through private sector financing) which would draw up feasibility studies about new economic projects where the private sector could find channels for investment.

He declared that the Government shared the private entrepreneurs' concern about existing weaknesses in infrastructure facilities (such as electricity, gas, water, Roads, telephones etc.), and in order to deal with this major problem the new five-year investment schedule had provided for an overall annual growth rate of 10 per cent in this sector of the economy.

While some of the individual infra-structure facilities would increase at an annual rate of 10 per cent or slightly lower, in the case of provision of telephones, the growth rate would be 30-40 per cent per year.

However, the first two years of the new investment schedule would be "very difficult" as far as provision of more infra-structural facilities was concerned and there were two ways open of dealing with this problem.

Firstly, new infra-structure services should be grouped in existing (or upcoming) industrial areas thus husbanding them to best effect rather than scattering them thinly throughout country.

Secondly, the private sector could be encouraged to enter this field, but he expressed doubts

as to whether this approach would succeed.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq pointed out that provision of new infra-structural facilities could also be used to spur the development of backward regions by locating them there.

Calling for more private investment in agriculture and agro-industries, he emphasized the need to process foodstuffs before exporting them.

PROPER POLICY

Dr. Mahbubul Haq also underlined the need for devising a proper policy for dealing with commodity stock surpluses which at the moment had looked up Rs. 17 billion by selling them in domestic and foreign markets. Getting rid of these surplus stocks would release much needed funds for private sector investment, he added.

He also said the de-rationing of sugar (and eventually wheat) will be helpful in liquidating surplus commodity stocks.

Dr. Mahbubul Haq said the question of giving the private sector a role in finance, power generation, coal mining, cotton and rice export should be given serious consideration.

He said the de-regulation of the economy should be part of the overall economic policy framework with the elimination of sanctioning procedures being accompanied with the parallel creation of a "built-in mechanism" in the new industrial strategy which would help, in implementing the laid down policy guidelines.

"The Federal Planning Minister emphasized that 'nothing is sacrosanct' in the division of the economy between the public and private sectors in the formulation of the new investment policy and schedule.

"Thousands" of new industrial and agricultural projects would be identified for future investment by the private sector in the investment policy and schedule to be announced later this autumn, he added.

Earlier in his welcome address the FPCCI President, Mohammad Yusuf Zia emphasized the need for allowing the private sector to play its proper role in national development. The discussion was attended by prominent businessmen and industrialists as well as government officials and economists.

GOVERNMENT NOT TO SANCTION MORE ASSEMBLING PLANTS

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Jul 83 p 8

[Text]

Sanction for the establishment of new plants limited to assembling components imported from abroad will not be forthcoming in future, Federal Planning and Development Minister, Dr. Mahbubul Haq in Karachi yesterday.

Speaking at a discussion arranged by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, he criticised badly-formulated past policies whereby over half a dozen tractor assembly units had been set up in various parts of the country.

Instead of permitting the establishment of so many economically unviable assembly plants, sanction should only have been given to one or two units where tractors would be manufactured completely, he added.

He said during recent visits to Japan and America, he had made it clear that the Pakistan government would henceforth not permit the setting up of any more assembly plants in the country and will only sanction the establishment of complete manufacturing factories.

CSO: 4600/818

GAS CYLINDERS, NEWSPRINT PROJECTS PLANNED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 31 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

The major projects for production and export of industrial gas cylinders and newsprint will be set up in the Export Processing Zone.

According to official sources, the two projects have been sponsored by entrepreneurs from West Germany, Canada and the USA who plan to invest over 120 million dollars.

They said the two projects had been approved by the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) and were expected to be commissioned in 1985.

They said the newsprint paper project would involve an investment of 60.50 million dollars, while the industrial gas cylinder

project would cost about 60 million dollars.

Sources said that both the projects were based on modern technology and would engage a large number of Pakistanis.

As for development of necessary infrastructure facilities in the Zone, they said that all development work had been completed except the construction of 132 KV system grid station, telecommunications network and some utility buildings.

The remaining development work, they hoped, would be completed within the current fiscal year.

The Federal Government has provided Rs. 59 million for completion of the facilities in the zone during the current fiscal year.

CSO: 4600/818

FIFTY PERCENT OF IRRIGATION WATER SAID TO BE LOST

Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 83 p 9

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, July 31: Atleast 50 per cent of the water distributed in Pakistan over 13 million hectares of agricultural land, is lost, world Bank estimates in its annual development report for 1983.

If this ratio could be cut to 30 per cent, the volume of water saved would equal the capacity of three Tarbela Dams (equal to a nine billion dollars investment), the report points out.

Although losses of 25 per cent are regarded as acceptable they are often much higher due to management weaknesses in the operation of the system in developing countries. Losses can often be reduced by relatively cheap improvements in irrigation design like unlined tertiary canals, combined underground water supplies etc, the Bank suggests.

These mobile units will visit villages to vaccinate rural population. Necessary staff has already been appointed which comprises 63 personnel including 48 vaccinators and 6 motivators.

The report states that public and private investments in irrigation in developing countries have increased dramatically over the past 20 years, reaching about 15 billion dollars in 1980. But the returns are much below their potential. One recent estimate for South and South East Asia suggested that an additional 20 million tons of rice, enough to provide the minimum food requirements of 90 million people, could be produced every year with inexpensive improvements in water distribution.—PPI

ARMY'S ROLE IN FUTURE POLITICAL SETUP OPPOSED

Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 83 p 14

[Text]

SUKKUR, July 29: Mr Musheer Ahmed Pesh Imam, General Secretary of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal told a Press conference here today that those who talked of the role of Armed Forces in the country's affairs in the future setup or framework on the pattern of Turkey, should remember that in Turkey the Armed Forces had played a role from the very beginning, while in the establishment of Pakistan the Armed Forces had played no role whatsoever.

Pakistan, he said, was established democratically through the will of general masses through their votes. As such, in Pakistan there could be no role for the Armed Forces in the running of the country's affairs. He said that the only way to solve the country's problems was to hold general elections under the 1973 Constitution on which all people and all political parties had agreed. He observed that the present Government was not sincere in holding elections in the country. It only sought excuses to prolong its own rule through various pretexts. Actually the Government was so weak that it had to seek excuses of "Missiles" which showed public dissatisfaction with its rule. If one could bring in mis-

siles other people could think of bringing in tanks etc., he added.

Mr Pesh Imam said that the Tehrik would not leave the MRD but would continue to struggle for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. He said that even those parties which were not in the MRD agreed on the demand for holding general elections under 1973 Constitution. He declared that if any amendment was necessary in the 1973 Constitution it could be made by an elected assembly and nobody else.

The Tehrik leader said that Aug 14 had been fixed as the date for starting the movement for restoration of democracy. Such movements did not succeed or fail in a single day. Aug 14 will be only the beginning of the movement and it will gradually gain momentum and succeed finally.

He said the Tehrik would adhere to the decision of MRD with regard to participation in Local Bodies elections. He disclosed that another meeting of MRD would be held before Aug 14 to review the political situation in the country and take decisions accordingly.

CSO: 4600/818

BRIEFS

SAUDI-PAKISTANI PROJECTS APPROVED--ISLAMABAD, July 31--The first annual general meeting of Saudi-Pak Industrial and Agricultural Investment Company (SAPICO) held here yesterday approved financing of four projects involving a total capital investment of Rs. 189.34 million with foreign exchange component of Rs. 55.538 million. In these four projects, SAPICO's contribution would be Rs. 52.128 million out of which Rs. 5.4 million would be in the shape of equity. While one of the approved project is located in Islamabad, the other three are located in the under-developed areas of NWFP two of these are agro-based and innovative in nature. So far SAPICO has approved the financing of nine projects in which its contribution amounts to Rs. 124.828 million, including Rs. 33.0 million in the form of equity. The meeting was presided over by Osman J. Faquich, Deputy Minister for Finance, government of Saudi Arabia. [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 1 Aug 83 p 1]

SURVEY OF HIGH PEAKS--ISLAMABAD, July 31--The Defence Minister Mir Ali Ahmad Talpur said that there was no specific plan for the survey of peaks above 6000 metres in the next five years. Replying to a question in the Majlis-e-Shoora the Minister, however said that heights of peaks get reconfirmed during new surveys that are carried out of the areas after periodical cycle. He said the heights of 14 peaks out of 28 peaks which are above 7000 metres have been reconfirmed by the Survey of Pakistan since 1947 during the course of new surveys of areas that have been carried out. [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 1 Aug 83 p 6]

MEDICAL AID FOR REFUGEES--ISLAMABAD, Aug. 1--Pakistan Government is providing all humanly possible medical aid for about 6.9 lakh Afghan refugees comprising men, women and children lodged in 60 tentage villages in the five districts of Baluchistan. This has been stated in a report of PTV representative Moazzam Ali, telecast recently. As many as 40 camp dispensaries have been set up to provide maximum medicare to the Afghan refugees where round-the-clock services of qualified doctors are available. Ten more camp dispensaries are to be added soon to cope with the increasing number of patients. Nearly 6,000 outdoor patients are being treated in these dispensaries per day. An amount of Rs. six million has been earmarked for the purchase of medicines for refugees. The international agencies are also collaborating with the Pakistan Government in the health care programme. A French organisation, AICF has set up an outdoor patient hospital for the benefit of Afghan refugees. Saudi Arabia is also running a dispensary at Muslimbagh while an international church organisation is also operating a dispensary at Dalbandin. [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 2 Aug 83 p 2]

MINI FERTILIZER PLANTS POSSIBLE--ISLAMABAD, Aug 1--Fertilizer production situation in the country is expected to improve during the Sixth Plan period, as a result of various measures being taken by the government. Two fertilizer plants in the private sector with a capacity of 2,80,000 tonnes per year, have been sanctioned to be set up, bringing the total number of fertilizer plants in the country to nine. Besides, the full cycle production of Fauji Fertilizer and Hazara Urea Fertilizer plants, would go a long way in combating shortage of fertilizers in the country. Efforts would also be directed at expanding production capacity of the existing plants during the Sixth Plan period. The government is also contemplating to conduct feasibility for installation of small scale mini-fertilizer plants, particularly those using intermediates, so as to organise a distribution system based on several strategically located plants of smaller size. [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 2 Aug 83 p 2]

PPP'S DECISION CRITICIZED--PESHAWAR, July 30--Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilor, the Acting Convener of the MRD, has deplored the decision of the defunct PPP regarding participation in the forthcoming local bodies elections. He described it as a betrayal and meant for achieving petty interests. He said the Movement for Restoration of Democracy in the country was established after a review of the national situation. He asked the PPP leaders what their representatives on the local bodies could do for the restoration of democracy in the country. He asked how the party could ignore other important objectives only to get chairs in the district and union councils. The MRD, Haji Bilor added, was giving the national call for non cooperation on Aug 14. But the PPP was going to take part in local bodies elections, he added. [Karachi DAWN in English 1 Aug 83 p 9]

PHOTOGRAPHER HELD, FREED--A Press photographer of a local Urdu daily, Mr. Zahid Hussain, was detained and later released by the police in Clifton area on Friday evening. He was picked up by a police party while he was trying to take photographs of Miss Benazir, the interned leader of the defunct PPP now in the Mideast Medical Centre where she was operated upon this week. [Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 83 p 10]

PCSIR TO BE REORGANIZED--LAHORE, Aug. 1--The Ministry of Science and Technology is actively considering a proposal to reorganise the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) and guidelines for reorganisation would be finalised by October this year. The purpose of reorganisation is to accelerate the scientific and industrial research in so-far-neglected disciplines, according to official sources. According to these sources, new research institutes will be set-up in the PCSIR and the departments and divisions with similar work would be merged to improve their functioning. [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 7]

NWFP BAN ON POLITICIANS--NATHIAGALI, Aug. 1--The NWFP Governor, Lt. Gen. Fazle Haq, on Sunday promulgated an ordinance under which any person who had remained executive committee member or office bearer of any political party at any level on or after Dec. 20, 1971, will be disqualified from becoming member of any tier of the local bodies. The ordinance, which amends the NWFP Local Government Ordinance, 1979, will not affect the members of the federal or provincial cabinets, or the federal, provincial, local or any other council. It

further provides that the Government may on its own or on a representation exempt any person from the provisions of the ordinance. The ordinance, which comes into force at once and is called the NWFP Local Government (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1983, adds sub section (G) in section 28A of the 1979 Ordinance. [Excerpt] [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 7]

SHOORA REPORT CRITICIZED--The President of the defunct Mazdoor Kissan Party (MKP), Mr Fatehyab Ali Khan, has criticised Majlis-i-Shoora's Special Committee report on future form of government, and has said that, being an unrepresentative body, its recommendations carry no weight. In a statement, he said Majlis-i-Shoora was a nominated body and there was already a Constitution approved unanimously by representatives of the people. Majlis-i-Shoora could not complete its total membership during the past three years, he said and wondered how it could recommend a system of government for the nation. Majlis-i-Shoora was a burden on the exchequer and was hardly rendering any service to the people, and therefore it must be dissolved, he added. Mr Fatehyab supported the MRD's call to launch a movement for restoration of democracy. He regretted that some leaders were unnecessarily creating a controversy over the Local Bodies elections and thus helping undemocratic forces in their machinations, a MKP Press release said. [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 10]

BALUCHISTAN TRIBAL TAX CRITICIZED--APP adds: Shishak, an illegal tax, is still being forcibly collected by Sardars from poor people of Baluchistan, Mr Ghulam Nabi, President, defunct Pakistan Mazdoor Kissan Party, Baluchistan, said in Karachi yesterday. In a Press statement, he said the collection of Shishak was declared illegal by the Government in 1973 but it was still being collected. Mr Ghulam Nabi said Sardari system was also abolished in 1976 by the Government but he regretted that tribal heads still continued to be known as Sardars. [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 10]

INFORMATION ON OVERSEAS PAKISTANIS--ISLAMABAD, Aug 1--Comprehensive research is being conducted by Overseas Pakistani Foundation (OPF) to know complete and accurate information about all such Pakistanis working abroad. OPF, a Government-Controlled body, has entrusted this task to a well-known research organisation. The contents of research report will be made public shortly after its submission to President Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq who had desired maximum details of overseas Pakistanis. The idea is to launch various welfare projects to benefit Pakistani immigrants on their return to Pakistan. Researchers had been asked by OPF authorities to establish various facts about the Pakistani working class abroad including age, qualification, nature of jobs they were engage with and others. [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 14]

MAZARI MOVED FROM JAIL--Sardar Sherbaz Khan Mazari, convener of the MRD and President of the defunct National Democratic Party, was removed yesterday from Multan Central Jail to a Forest Department's rest-house at Parwal, a town located between Multan and Sahiwal. According to information reaching here, Mr Mazari has boils over his body and is also suffering from stomach ailment. Since his detention in Multan jail he is stated to have lost 10 pounds in weight. Mr Abid Zuberi, Central Information Secretary of the defunct NDP, told "Dawn" last evening that Mr. Mazari had, in fact, been kept in solitary confinement in "C" class, with only a cot available to him. Visitors were not

allowed to see him nor food or any other article from outside was available to him inside the jail. The newspapers, supplied to him, were heavily censored and, besides, they were only those of the National Press Trust, he added. [Karachi DAWN in English 2 Aug 83 p 14]

INDUS HIGHWAY PROJECT--A lot of interest for the Indus Highway was also spotlighted when the House took up a resolution moved by Mir Nawaz Khan Marwat that work on the highway be undertaken forthwith. Arbab Niaz Mohammad, the Federal Minister for Sports and Culture, speaking on behalf of the Federal Communications Minister, Mr Mohyuddin Baloch, gave the details of the project which was abandoned. The Federal Finance Minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, also spoke on the subject saying the project could not be undertaken for the time being. The Federal Minister for Production, Lt-Gen Saeed Qadir, speaking on the resolution, said that the National Logistic Cell was constructing an alternative road from Peshawar to Kalabagh which, on completion, would reduce the distance to Karachi by about 300 kilometres. He said that the construction of Dera Ghazi Khan Bridge by NLC would also benefit the areas concerned. Mr. Gardhari Lal Bhatia, Mr. Balakh Sher Mazari, Mr Mohammad Nawaz, Mr. Mush-taq Ahmad Qureshi, Dr Nasreen Maqbool, Sardar Atta Mohammad Leghari, Maulana Qazi Abdul Latif, Sahabzada Burhanuddin, Mr Taj Khanzada, Hafiz Mohammad Taqi, Chaudhry Altaf Hussain, Raja Khaliqullah Khan and Mr Liaquat Ali Jatoi also spoke on the resolution. The resolution was unanimously passed by the House with an amendment from Mian Naeemur Rehman that as and when resources were available, construction of Indus Highway be completed without further delay. [Excerpt] [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 83 p 10]

GRANTS FOR PRESS AGENCIES--To a question from Agha Saderuddin Durrani, the Information Minister told the House that the administration of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) was looked after by the Government. The annual grant to APP was Rs. 12,266,000 and to PPI was 305,000 during 1982-83. [Excerpt] [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 83 p 10]

SHOORA DEBATE ON PLAN--ISLAMABAD, Aug 2--Dr Mahbubul Haq, Minister for Planning and Development, told Majlis-i-Shoora today that the Government would welcome discussion on the Sixth Five-Year Plan in the House. Intervening in the discussion on the motion of Mr Zain Noorani about denationalisation of takeover industries in 1972 and 1973, Dr Mahbubul Haq said that as the Annual Development Programme formed a part of the Sixth Five-Year Plan, the members, while participating in the discussion on the Budget 1983-84, could express their views on the subject. He said that the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, had highlighted the main aspects of the Sixth five-Year Plan. [Karachi DAWN in English 3 Aug 83 p 10]

CSO: 4600/823

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Sept. 9, 1983